

Written Testimony

HB 683 & SB 461

Position: Favorable

I am writing to ask your support for HB 683 & SB 461.

“Opioids in the Workplace” data from the CDC website, shows that opiate prescriptions for workman’s compensation injuries, while decreasing remains significant. There is a national opiate crisis and according to research posted on drugabuse.gov, up to 29% of people prescribed opiates for chronic pain misuse them and up to 12% will develop an opiate use disorder.

Further, a 2020 systematic review of 9 studies, demonstrated that cannabis reduced opiate usage in chronic pain 64-75% and 32-59% of patients reported substituting cannabis for opiates. The evidence is clear, medical cannabis is a viable alternative or adjunct for opiates to treat pain.

As medical cannabis is a legal option in Maryland which is proven by research to be an alternative for chronic pain and as we have a significant national opiate crisis, it is logical for workman’s compensation to reimburse for medical cannabis as either an alternative or a supplement to an opiate prescription.

Thank you,



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<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/opioids/data.html#:~:text=In%202016%2C%2044%25%20of%20all,declined%20from%2055%25%20since%202012.>

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7388229/pdf/13643\\_2020\\_Article\\_1425.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7388229/pdf/13643_2020_Article_1425.pdf)

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>