



TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAL DISPENSARY ASSOCIATION

Senate Bill 884—Medical Cannabis—Visiting Qualifying Patients

SUPPORT

Senate Finance Committee

March 11, 2021

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDMDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a healthy, professional and secure medical cannabis industry in the State. MDMDA works on the State and local level to advance the interests of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Medical Cannabis Industry.

Senate Bill 190 allows a visiting qualifying patient to participate in Maryland's medical cannabis program so long as the visiting patient provides a licensed medical dispensary with appropriate photographic identification and certification that the individual participates in the medical cannabis program in his/her state of residence. A number of states already have programs in place that would allow reciprocity, including Washington, DC. The MDMDA supports such programs as they allow patients who are traveling, whether for business or for pleasure, the ability to obtain medication more easily. Considering the number of Americans who rely on medical cannabis to manage their health care conditions—nearly two million according to 2018 statistics--reciprocity is a commonsense measure.

For this simple and straightforward reason, we urge the Senate Finance Committee to vote favorably on Senate Bill 884.