



Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

March 4, 2021

**Testimony: SB 708 - Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation**  
**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee:

Thank you for your time and consideration on SB 708 - Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation. My name is Dr. Kyle Kingsley and I serve as the CEO of Vireo Health and its subsidiary, MaryMed, LLC, a vertically integrated operator licensed in Maryland. Vireo Health is a physician-founded, science-focused company dedicated to providing best-in-class cannabis-based products and unrivaled patient care. We are licensed to cultivate and produce cannabis products in 8 states including Maryland. Our team is comprised of physicians, scientists, engineers, and horticulturists that bring a broad spectrum of experience in best manufacturing practices and evidence-based medicine. We currently operate a 110,000 square foot cultivation facility in Massey, MD, with expansion underway to bring the total canopy to 180,000 square feet, a 22,500 square foot processing and manufacturing facility in Hurlock, MD and a Green Goods™ retail dispensary in Frederick, MD. The majority of our 64 Maryland employees are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 27.

We appreciate the sponsor's efforts to pass a comprehensive legalization and regulation bill that considers both the war on drug's disparate effects on minority and low-income communities, as well as the practical business issues that will arise in a newly legalized adult use marketplace. Vireo Health remains steadfast in our support of proposed cannabis reform legislation that helps ensure cannabis laws are inclusive and equitable. Our comments are based on this shared vision, as well as our experience operating in other states.

It is especially helpful that the legislation creates the Office of Social Equity within the Commission. The Office of Social Equity would be responsible for promoting and encouraging participation within the regulated cannabis industry by people from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement. Through the proposed



# Vireo

Social Equity Start-Up Fund, and its Cannabis Education and Training Fund, we believe there is an opportunity to create an incubator program accessible to minority business applicants that can learn directly from experts in the industry. We certainly welcome any opportunity to help create the incubator program and facilitate its operations and efforts. *As such, we suggest an amendment that would include an incubator program within the Office of Social Equity.*

Combined with our mutual goal of increasing access to the cannabis industry to those that have been disproportionately harmed by prohibition, we know that Vireo Health and other cannabis companies can help Marylanders on both social and fiscal levels. We truly look forward to our partnership and our efforts together. Should you have any questions, or requests for more information, please feel free to contact us.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to vote favorably on SB 708.

Sincerely,



Kyle Kingsley, MD

**CEO of Vireo Health, Inc. and MaryMed LLC**

