

**Date: 2-12-2021**

**Regarding: House Bill 706– Testimony of Robert Davis R.Ph**

**Owner hi Tide dispensary/OC botanicals LLC (SD 38) Ocean City Maryland.**

Good afternoon,

I would like to voice my support for House Bill 706. A micro-licensing program for dispensaries would be extremely beneficial for the patients within the state of Maryland by helping to supply the medical needs of our patients in each senatorial district. By being able to create and grow a small predictable supply of medical cannabis to be dispensed by that licensed dispensary will help to ensure patients within the state of Maryland will receive the medicine they need. My business OC botanicals LLC/ hi Tide dispensary is an independently owned operation. A small micro grow will allow me to produce a small amount of medical cannabis that would directly benefit my patients in the area I serve. As the industry develops, we are seeing a tremendous amount of multistate operators moving into Maryland and these operators are buying up many dispensaries, processors and even grow licenses. This type of business model, if it is left to continue unchecked will force me out of operation as I am dependent on the grows and processors selling product to my business. I am already experiencing shortages of product not being allocated to my business because multistate operators are utilizing the product they are creating for their own dispensaries to distribute and denying me the ability to purchase. Also, I am completely at the mercy of whatever price structure they offer for me to buy. The intent from the beginning on the original application for the state of Maryland's medical cannabis program was to give an incentive for in state ownership thus providing jobs and wealth to the residence of state of Maryland directly. We are all seeing that intent erode drastically. If I am to have hope to survive and not being forced to sell to one of these multistate operators, allowing independently owned in state dispensaries the opportunity to have a micro grow would be one of the few avenues available to correct this grave issue. Please, review this issue before it is too late, as the future will be Maryland patients money being spent on medical cannabis will be sent out of state to the multistate operators and ultimately will be at the detriment of the state of Maryland and all Maryland citizens.

Thanks for your time and the opportunity to present this statement.

Sincerely,

*Robert H Davis R. Ph*

Owner/Clinical Director

hi Tide Dispensary