



Carrington & Associates, LLC

"Continuing A Tradition of Excellence"

HB 32 Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021) – Support with Amendment

Carrington & Associates, LLC SUPPORTS HB32 with an amendment. This comprehensive bill establishes the legal framework to move Maryland toward a tax and regulation program for the adult use of cannabis.

The bill has done a great job in addressing the years of failed drug policy that saw communities of color marginalized through overzealous enforcement of drug laws. Specifically, while blacks and white use cannabis at similar rates, people of color are overwhelmingly more likely to be targeted and prosecuted for these offenses. We thank Delegate Jazz Lewis for such a forward-thinking bill.

We would like to amend the bill to remove caps on the number of licenses available in each category. The free market has served our Nation well and is the gold standard in the world. By eliminating caps and creating a licensing system based upon meeting the state standards for operations, would reduce the instances of corruption and put government in its proper of role of calling "balls and strikes" instead of picking "winners and losers" in this process. If companies meet the standards established this new Commission, then they shall be issued a license. If those companies know what they are doing, they will be successful, if not, they will fail. That is the American Way!

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC enthusiastically supports HB32 with the amendment noted and asks for your FAVORABLE report.