



POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Bill: HB0415 Criminal Law – Firearms- Right to Purchase, possess, and Carry- Use of Medical Cannabis

Position: Favorable

Date: March 10, 2021

The Office of the Public Defender supports this bill which would provide medical marijuana patients with the same rights as their fellow Maryland residents. This bill would ensure that individuals don't lose their gun rights for merely registering as a legal medical marijuana patient. Maryland already has strong gun safety legislation, and those laws aren't weakened by preventing medical marijuana patients from lawfully possessing firearms. Instead, this legislation matches the legislature's intent to treat medical cannabis like other forms of medicine by not making the use of medical cannabis as a basis to infringe on an individual's constitutional rights.