



**Testimony in Opposition of Firearms - Right to Purchase,
Own, Possess, and Carry - Medical Cannabis
HB 415**

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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence**

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Dear Chair Clippenger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a local, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland, with a particular focus on reducing urban gun violence and gun suicide. We do our work through preemptive strategies like programs for at-risk children, the telling of victim stories, violence prevention and intervention coalition work, and legislation.

We urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report on **HB 415** which seeks to remove the possibility of evaluating a person's medical cannabis use when determining the suitability of that person to purchase, own, possess, or carry a firearm. Whether or not the federal government decides to address the guidance on medical cannabis' designation as a controlled substance, the science appears to still be evolving on the impairment effect on various types and methods of consumption to the user. There needs to be significant data submitted through proper scientific channels to warrant any sort of change affecting firearm purchase, possession, and/or carry rights. There is evidence at the moment that allowing firearm rights to those who may in fact be regularly impaired by their use of medical cannabis is not warranted or advisable.

In addition this legislation seeks to remove knowledge of medical cannabis use at all as a datapoint. We find this information may have relevant bearing on a person's appropriateness for firearm use and therefore should not be removed from the analysis. For these reasons we oppose **HB 415** and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report.