



**House Bill 628: Employment-Workers' Compensation and Workplace Discrimination-Use of Medical Cannabis**

On behalf of the Maryland Medical Dispensary Association  
House Economic Matters Committee

**Support**

February 15, 2022

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDMDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a healthy, professional and secure medical cannabis industry in the State. MDMDA works on the State and local level to advance the interest of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Medical Cannabis Industry.

The MDMDA has been a long-time supporter of policies that provide protections for qualifying patients and caregivers enrolled in the Maryland Medical Cannabis Program. HB 628 would ensure that employers could not penalize employees for their participation in the program. In 17 of the 36 states with legal medical cannabis programs, either the laws include some explicit employment protections or courts have ruled in favor of employees. We believe Maryland should follow suit.

We urge the House Economic Matters Committee to support patients and caregivers by supporting HB 628. These protections are so important. In addition, we also support the workers' compensation provisions of this bill for the same reasons we articulate in our testimony in support of House Bill 614.

Please vote favorably on House Bill 628.