



WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 837

Constitutional Amendment – Cannabis – Adult Use and Possession

February 14, 2022
Judiciary Committee
Maryland House

TO: Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair,
Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Committee

FR: Jason Chorpenning
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Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the 23,000 working men and women represented by United Food & Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 27, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1.

The UFCW Local 27 is proud to represent the hard-working men and women in retail food, food processing, manufacturing, distribution, gaming, health care, cannabis and other industries.

Nationally, UFCW represents over 1.3 million hard-working men and women who work in highly regulated industries including the emerging legal cannabis industry. Our cannabis members can be found across multiple states in growing and cultivating facilities, manufacturing, and processing facilities, and in laboratories and dispensaries, including in Maryland.

UFCW Local 27 supports this legislation that will allow Marylanders to vote in favor of allowing adults in the state to use and possess cannabis.

Recently polling has shown that Marylanders attitude toward cannabis has been changing with over 60% now supporting legalization. This is consistent with national trends as well; currently 18 states and the District of Columbia permit the recreational use of cannabis.

In addition, this legislation will address the disproportionate negative impact criminalization of cannabis has had on communities of color. As the Racial Equity Impact Note shows: African Americans, or people identified as Black, are twice as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession as compared to their proportion of the State's population.

This legislation is consistent with the attitude of Marylanders, helps address long-stand racial inequality and promotes criminal justice reform.

I urge the Committee to SUPPORT HB 1.

In Solidarity,


Jason Chorpenning