

## Potomac Holistics

14808 Physicians Lane, Suite 212 Rockville, MD 20850  
[askinazilaw@gmail.com](mailto:askinazilaw@gmail.com)

February 15, 2023

Hon. Delegate Wilson  
Economic Matters Committee  
Cannabis Reform – HB 0556

Re: Written Testimony from Potomac Holistics (“PH”) – Unfavorable February 17, 2023 at 1pm

Dear Delegate Wilson,

In 2015, my family and friends decided to risk a majority of our life savings by pioneering medical cannabis in Maryland. Medical cannabis had saved the life of our oldest son from a form of wasting syndrome. I left my law practice to lead countless meetings, navigate uncertain zoning and regulations, find a premise, educate our team, and enroll our Rockville community. We worked closely with the MMCC and adhered strictly to the regulations. Our 100 plus page application included a detailed business plan that had an exit strategy and calculated return on investment. To national fanfare, we made the first sale of medical cannabis in Maryland in 2017 to a deserving crowd of hundreds. We navigated the threats of the federal DOJ shutdown, braved the pandemic and never ever laid off a single employee. Our independent non-MSO dispensary grew from 4 employees to a diverse and women/minority dominant staff of 12 trained young folks.

I am now 65 years old and have health issues. The bargain was that Maryland promised us that after three years we could sell our license and get a return of investment. The proposed five year moratorium will prevent me from retiring. In fact the blanket ban on license transfer ignores the very basic right of a business owner to sell his asset. We paid all of our hefty fees, sacrificed years to grow and waited the three years. This proposal suddenly forces a community locally inspired dispensary into a draconian choice – pay \$250,000 now and work for 5 more years without hope of transfer without exception (except if I die !) or sell within 120 days. How does this arbitrary ban on selling an original dispensary license affect owners who banked on funds for tuition bills, divorce, care for elderly parents, or in my case needed funds for future cancer costs ?

**I urge the House to eliminate the moratorium of license transfer on those original license holders who fulfilled the 3 year wait and restore Maryland’s original promise to recognize life’s events and allow an unencumbered transfer of a citizens hard-earned property. Thank you.**

William F. Askinazi, Owner and Founder Potomac Holistics “ Maryland’s Original Independent Dispensary. 240-274-0691

