



# DEER CREEK

Government Relations LLC.

February 12, 2023

The Honorable CT Wilson  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231

**RE: House Bill 556 – Cannabis Reform – Support with Amendments**

Dear Delegate Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Mr. Chair and Delegate Atterbeary thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of my client Nature's Care and Wellness. One of two Maryland owned and operated independent medical cannabis dispensary located in Harford and Cecil counties. We appreciate the tremendous amount of work that has gone into the drafting of this most important public policy as approved by Maryland voters.

Nature's Wellness and Care was created in 2014 and became the ninth dispensary opened in January of 2018 and employs 30 employees. After the investment of considerable capital and serving in an arena with must larger national businesses, we have been able to assist many patients with their cannabis prescriptions and give back to the community.

The anticipation of this legislation by potential patients has reduced the number of new patients we are serving along with additional costs of operating, so we are supporting amendments to phase-in or create an installment schedule for the conversion fees outlined in the Bill. Many are not in a position currently to pay the total fees up front or take on additional debt.

On the operations side, we would request amendments to continue to allow existing independent medical dispensaries the ability to deliver to our patients. In lieu of specific hours, we would also support amended language to allow us to provide our medical patients with express lanes or priority service privileges at our locations.

As one of our locations is near the Perry Point Veterans hospital in Perryville, Maryland,