



March 1, 2023

The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building - Room 231  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Health & Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building - Room 241  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support with Amendment – House Bill 1147: Public Health - Cannabis Programs - Cannabis-Induced Psychosis and THC Concentration Limit

Dear Chairman Wilson, Chair Peña-Melnyk, and Honorable Members of the Committees:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS and WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS supports, with an amendment, House Bill 1147: Public Health - Cannabis Programs - Cannabis-Induced Psychosis and THC Concentration Limit (HB 1147). The relationship between cannabis use and psychosis is complex and multifaceted. For example, while some research suggests that high levels of THC, the main psychoactive component of cannabis, may increase the risk of developing psychosis, other factors such as individual susceptibility, genetics, age, and frequency of use may also play a role. With that said, MPS/WPS believe that cannabis concentration levels should be capped at 10% as there is no good research on concentrations greater than this for any medical condition and there is significant literature on the negative effects of high-potency THC and THC above the 10% concentration level

Therefore, MPS/WPS suggests the following amendment to HB 1147:

***On page 2, line 32, strike "15" and substitute "10".***

Finally, MPS/WPS would note that the State needs to continually educate its citizens on the risks and increase prevention efforts to prevent children and adolescents from initiating recreational cannabis use in the first place. This should include a strong ban on any advertising that appears to be directed toward youth recreational use. In addition, the State should consider warning labels on the packaging that highlights the concentration of THC and the potential for psychosis as we do with cigarettes and cancer.



With the amendment mentioned above adopted, MPS/WPS ask this committee for a favorable report on HB 1147. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at [tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society  
Legislative Action Committee