

Good afternoon,

My name is Christopher Guy Cannon and my wife's name is Barbara Ellen Cannon. Cannon Ball Dispensary is a proud veteran, and woman owned operation. Our Shop is in Lusby, Maryland the southside of Calvert County. Both my wife and I invested all our savings in this, what has become a staple in such a brief time in our community.

As a Veteran, I know firsthand the impact and effects PTSD can have on an individual and the families involved. I served in the United States Navy for a total 6 years and did not one, but two tours and served in two wars (Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom). I was just 18 and 19 the first time I saw war. I was just a baby myself serving, fighting, and protecting this great nation from all those, both foreign and domestic without a second thought. Not only did I deploy at such a young impressionable age I was also a young parent who had to leave his newborn daughters behind to uphold the commitment I made to this nation.

When I decided to discharge from the military (Honorably), it left me broken, to the point I felt alone. Though my family was there they simply could not begin to understand my mental state and depression. It was not until I was introduced to Delta-8 and other hemp derived cannabinoids that I was able to control incredibly angry and displaced feelings. Products like CBD and Delta-8 which saved my life and my family.

That is when Cannon Ball Dispensary was born. I thought, if these products had such an enormous impact on my life, imagine what I can do for my community and veterans struggling to make it back from war. The first year of open I did not take or make any money from our business, and it surely was not because we were not doing well. I did not take a salary because I wanted to focus on my people, and make sure they were getting what they needed out of me, the best of me. To date we have helped countless veterans suffering with PTSD, to people battling cancer and addiction to people with physical ailments such as severe arthritis, chronic inflammation, and even mal seizures. We have also put in work to our community and donated to multiple charities in our brief time of being open. Some examples are, Hospice House, VFW, American Legion, Special Olympics, and we even sponsored some local kid's sports.

Cannon Ball Dispensary does not just stand as a basic CDB & Hemp store, it stands for wellness center. A place where people can turn to for a more natural approach to their health and wellness. These products have done nothing but make positive impacts on the people's lives who utilize these products, like me. The past 4 years these products have been readily accessible to the public nationwide pretty much. I think it would be detrimental to the industry as a whole and thousands of jobs and businesses would be lost at the stroke of a pen to people who just do not do real research. These bills are written and made by people who are not really in our communities every day, by people who have not even the basic knowledge of cannabinoids and how they interact with one system or even how they are made. These Hemp derived products go through a higher standard, of full panel, 3rd party testing.

In closing, allowing this bill to pass would take away these natural options for the people of our community who've we have grown to respect and care about. I wake up every day looking forward to helping at least one more person. I have not failed yet nor do I expect to and will fight just as I fought in war for our freedoms in the nation. Passing this bill would rip businesses from under our feet. All our hard work, sweat, many tears and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent to date keeping this dream alive. I worked too hard for this well-known and trusted establishment for it to be taken away. If want to talk more in depth about regulation, why not let us discuss that rather than the eradication of the Hemp industry. Why not bring establishments like mine on and Embrace CBD with Micro Licenses. Why, so the people who are going to benefit the most are the already rich medical dispensary owners. Sounds like favoritism and corruption which unfortunately in my brief time on this planet I have witnessed both happen before my eyes. Thank you for your time. Hopefully, we can reach common ground and find a way for this to work for all parties involved.

Proposed Amendments to HB556 Page 18, line 19: (C) (1) A DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONCENTRATION GREATER THAN 1% ON A DRY WEIGHT BASIS.

Page 69, lines 24: (A) (1) [0.5 MILLIGRAMS OF TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL PER SERVING OR 2.5 MILLIGRAMS OF TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL] 0.3% DELTA-9- TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL ON A DRY WEIGHT BASIS UNLESS THE PERSON IS LICENSED

Page 70, Line 8, STRIKE : [(B) A PERSON MAY NOT SELL OR DISTRIBUTE A CANNABINOID PRODUCT THAT IS NOT DERIVED FROM NATURALLY OCCURRING BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS.