



**SB 523 – FAV**

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

I am pleased to submit the following testimony for **Senate Bill 523 - Medical Cannabis - Employees in Health Care Settings Caring for Qualifying Patients – Exemption**. Our patients, and particularly those in assisted living facilities need our assistance. This legislation will give an opportunity for qualifying health care settings to provide medical cannabis to seniors who are already patients within the State’s program while they are under their care.

Under current law, caregivers are required to dispense medical cannabis to patients who cannot do so themselves. However, the law limits the number of patients that can be served by that caregiver. The proposed measure builds on the groundwork that the General Assembly has already provided for in the school setting for students in need of medical cannabis. Thanks to the amended language that was the work of a collaborative effort with the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission’s staff, the mechanism for safe dispensing will be equally applicable to both the young and to the elderly in health care settings.

As such, we are asking that this Committee give favorable consideration to SB 523. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding these matters, I can be reached at [William.valois@growwestmd.com](mailto:William.valois@growwestmd.com).

Sincerely,

William Valois, CEO  
Grow West MD

