

Good afternoon, Chair Griffith and committee members.
I am Joe Xavier, Senior Director of Health & Safety for ABC National.

All Maryland businesses will need to do three things once recreational cannabis is fully legalized in July:

1. Comply with the law regarding consumers who use cannabis in a responsible manner.
2. Protect the rights of the workforce to a safe and healthful workplace.
3. Ensure the workforce is predictable and sustainable in order to provide a valuable product or service to the market.

Construction is labor intensive and the workplace is in a constant state of change.

Even with sophisticated safety systems there are still too many injuries in the construction industry. One miscommunication, one misjudgment, one inch, one second can be the difference between a normal day and a tragic fatality.

Construction companies need flexibility and the ability to utilize policies, practices, and tools that keep our workforce safe and free of impairment at work.

While current testing for cannabis has some limitations, technology is in use and being further developed.

In closing, this request is a pro-worker position, the workforce needs to feel safe at work knowing that their coworkers are ready for work and not impaired.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the testimony from this panel.