

SB0523

Favorable with Amendments

Dawn-Marie Steenstra

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Dear Esteemed Senators,

I am currently a Clinical Director of Dispensaries for Maryland representing the National Clinical Director Consortium (NCDC) since 2021, and a Clinical Cannabis Nurse for over a decade. I oversee hundreds of patients in multiple stores to evaluate their health conditions and distressing symptoms from a trained clinical / medical viewpoint. I also perform medication reconciliation to determine safety/side effects when taken with other pharmaceuticals and expected outcomes of cannabis for their conditions. For 2 years I submitted detailed reports on the complicated questions and problems patients were working through utilizing cannabis and also provided the science and studies behind my answers to the MMCC.

In my community nursing work over the preceding 26 years, it was routine for nurses to care for more than 5 patients at one time. I, personally, was responsible at one time for 24 patients in a step down long term care setting. I find this bill favorable with the exception of the **LIMIT of patients for a ‘Caregiver ‘ in an inpatient setting’**. Please extend the limit to include however many patients an inpatient caregiver is assigned.

I am certain there will be many opportunities for nurses to work with multiple patients at one time utilizing cannabis, particularly when we make studies available to assisted living and long term care populations.

Thank you for allowing me to share my input to this bill.

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