



25 E. 20th Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

TESTIMONY

In Support of *Senate Bill 469, Maryland Cannabis Administration – Cannabis Licensing - Protests of Renewal*

Senate Committee on Finance

February 22, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 469, which would give communities a voice in the renewed licensing of cannabis distributors. We appreciate this legislation, sponsored by Senator Cory McCray, which empowers community members to participate in licensing renewal decisions by the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA).

Communities negatively impacted by irresponsible providers of certain licensed services are typically blocked from influencing licensing decisions. While immediate communities of poorly managed facilities may be plagued by loitering, crime, traffic, or nuisances related to the facilities, the concerns of operators or the needs of constituents are given precedence over the interests of the immediate community.

SB 469 gives these communities a voice—the right to protest the renewal of cannabis licenses through the MCA—in cases when operators have a demonstrated record of mismanagement that is deleterious to the community. This bill promotes the inclusion of community members in these decisions that directly affect their quality of life, and promotes the transparency and responsiveness of the MCA, an important State decision-maker. This openness to communication from the community is especially important in the case of an emerging sector such as the cannabis industry.

Thank you for this opportunity! Please support SB 469.

Sincerely,



Ellen Janes
Executive Director