

Good afternoon.

I am concerned and confused about the on-site consumption bill.

To be clear, I do not oppose on-site consumption of cannabis, in fact, it is quite the opposite. I believe that there should absolutely be places where it is legal and safe for people to consume cannabis, especially when landlords can still prohibit cannabis consumption in rented units. Medical patients and even recreational consumers deserve to be able to use cannabis without fear of retaliation.

However, I do not think it makes any sense to only allow edibles or beverages at these locations.

For one, edibles can be consumed discretely anywhere. It may not be strictly legal, but almost no one will notice if someone eats a small gummy in a movie theatre, for example. Many people already do this. Specific locations set aside to allow consumption of edibles alone will simply be underutilized, as it is not filling a need.

Furthermore, edibles often take up to an hour, or even more, to take effect. This is not like drinking alcohol. Providing a location for people to consume edibles on site does not concentrate inebriation to that site. At a bar, most people will be the most drunk while they are at the bar and drinking. By the time they leave, they will have stopped drinking and are beginning to sober up. This is simply not how cannabis edibles work. I imagine that many people would simply consume their product and then leave, with the full effects only taking place once they are at a different location. What is the difference between doing that at a dedicated business and doing that in your own home, or on the bus, or literally anywhere else?

I think that this bill vastly misses the mark by not providing locations for people to smoke and vape cannabis as well. This, rather than edible consumption, is the form of use that I think actually warrants these dedicated locations. Unlike edible consumption, smoking and vaping does impact bystanders. With the absence of dedicated on-site consumption for smoking and vaping, consumers have no choice but to consume at their own home, or illegally in public. If someone rents, and fears losing their housing by smoking or vaping at home; if someone has a child, or lives with someone who is sensitive to the smell of cannabis, or allergic; they will simply smoke and vape illegally in public, because they have no other option. Why should we not provide a dedicated place where consumers can smoke and vape, safely and legally, and away from any bystanders who do not wish to be affected?

You never hear anyone complaining about someone eating a gummy or a chocolate bar near them. You do hear about people complaining of the smell of cannabis smoke, very regularly. It seems extremely clear to me that it is smoking and vaping which needs the dedicated spaces, not edible consumption. Edibles could of course be allowed at those locations as well, but I see that as secondary to the main need.

Hookah lounges exist legally in the state of Maryland. I see no reason why lounges for smoking and vaping cannabis should not as well. It seems backwards to me to focus on edible lounges first. When these businesses are inevitably underutilized, I fear that it would be used as “evidence” that onsite consumption in general is a bad idea or a non-viable business model. I hope that my

testimony provides reasons otherwise. In short, I believe that Bill 215 should be amended to include smoking and vaping in addition to edibles and beverages.

Thank you.