



Testimony - SB 726, Cannabis Licensees - Bona Fide Labor Organizations and Labor
Peace Agreements
Favorable
Senate Finance Committee
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Honorable Chairwoman Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SEIU Local 500 is one of Maryland's largest public sector unions representing over 23,000 workers. We stand in solidarity with workers and union brethren in the cannabis industry in supporting Senate Bill 726. This bill promotes fair labor practices by requiring cannabis licensees to enter into labor peace agreements with bona fide labor organizations and establishes clear criteria for determining the legitimacy of such organizations.

Maryland has an opportunity to ensure that workers in the cannabis industry have the right to organize, advocate for better working conditions, and negotiate fair wages without fear of retaliation. SB 726 ensures that labor organizations that engage with cannabis businesses are truly representative of worker interests, actively organizing employees, and working toward collective bargaining agreements.

The inclusion of labor peace agreements is particularly significant. By preventing work stoppages, picketing, or boycotts, these agreements promote stability within the industry while also safeguarding workers' rights. Other states with legal cannabis industries have adopted similar measures to maintain a balanced and fair relationship between businesses and employees, and Maryland should follow suit.

Additionally, this bill provides a necessary mechanism for holding cannabis businesses accountable. By allowing bona fide labor organizations to file protests against license renewals when a business fails to uphold fair labor practices, SB 726 ensures that worker protections remain a priority as the industry expands.

This legislation represents a critical step in making Maryland's cannabis industry equitable, fair, and sustainable. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 726 and stand with Maryland's cannabis workers in their fight for fair treatment and economic security.

We respectfully urge the committee to give SB 726 a favorable report. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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