



Written Testimony in Support of SB 726

To: Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Antonio Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Fr: Submitted by Jeff Hedrick, Vice President, and Director of Organizing, UFCW Local 27

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of legislation requiring all cannabis dispensaries in Maryland to sign labor peace agreements (LPAs) with a bona fide labor union. My name is Jeff Hedrick, and I serve as the Director of Organizing for UFCW Local 27, which represents thousands of workers across Maryland and Delaware, including in the cannabis industry.

LPAs are essential to ensuring Maryland's cannabis industry remains stable, fair, and beneficial to workers and employers alike. Several states, including Delaware, New Jersey, and New York, have already made them a legal requirement. Maryland should follow suit to protect workers' rights, promote economic growth, and create a fair industry.

By passing this bill, Maryland will:

1. **Protect Workers and Industry Stability** – LPAs prevent workplace disputes that could disrupt dispensary operations, ensuring a fair process for workers to organize free from intimidation.
2. **Ensure Fair Wages and Benefits** – The cannabis industry generates millions in revenue, yet many workers still struggle with low pay and poor benefits. LPAs help guarantee fair compensation and safe working conditions.
3. **Encourage Responsible Business Practices** – States with LPAs see better compliance with labor laws and fewer disputes, fostering an industry that values its workforce.
4. **Advance Social Equity** – Maryland has committed to an equitable cannabis industry. LPAs align with this goal by ensuring cannabis jobs are good jobs with long-term career opportunities.

Maryland has a chance to set a strong standard for labor fairness in cannabis. I urge you to support this bill and protect the rights of cannabis workers. For These Reasons, I strongly urge the Committee to support SB 726

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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