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## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 215 Cannabis – On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 215, which introduces critical provisions regarding on-site consumption establishments and cannabis events in Maryland. As a business that has been actively engaged in the cannabis industry since 2013, Carrington & Associates, LLC recognizes the significant potential of this bill to enhance the state's cannabis market while addressing public health and safety concerns.

Senate Bill 215 takes a progressive approach to cannabis regulation by introducing clear guidelines for on-site consumption and cannabis events, areas that have long been recognized as essential to the growth of the industry. This bill would enable businesses, including those operated by social equity applicants, to offer cannabis products for consumption on-site in a controlled and responsible environment. It includes provisions that ensure consumer safety through responsible vendor training, educational materials, and clear boundaries on what can and cannot occur within these establishments.

Of particular note is the bill's authorization of on-site consumption establishments to repack and process cannabis products for the creation of single-serving items. This is a necessary step toward enhancing consumer experience and facilitating access to appropriately portioned cannabis products, which aligns with responsible consumption practices and regulatory standards in place throughout the state.

Additionally, Senate Bill 215 provides a balanced approach by allowing local jurisdictions the flexibility to establish hours of operation and zoning regulations for these establishments, ensuring that local communities maintain control over how cannabis-related businesses are integrated into their neighborhoods. This is crucial in promoting collaboration between the state and local authorities to ensure the smooth implementation of these businesses.

For the cannabis industry, this bill presents an opportunity to innovate and expand by creating new venues where consumers can experience cannabis in a responsible and enjoyable manner, while providing businesses with a pathway to diversify their operations. Importantly, the bill's focus on social equity applicants ensures that individuals from historically disadvantaged communities have an opportunity to participate in this burgeoning sector.

Carrington & Associates, LLC strongly supports Senate Bill 215 as an important step in Maryland's cannabis evolution. We believe that by providing clear guidelines for on-site consumption and cannabis events, this bill fosters the responsible and legal use of cannabis, supports the growth of the industry, and provides a platform for social equity applicants to succeed. We urge the Committee to pass this bill and look forward to the continued growth and innovation of the cannabis sector in Maryland.

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