



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**SB 726 - Cannabis Licensees - Bona Fide Labor Organizations and Labor Peace
Agreements
Senate Finance Committee
March 6, 2025**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 726. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Since its legalization, we have seen the cannabis industry grow exponentially in the state with the industry generating \$1.14 billion in total sales in 2024 alone and expected to eclipse \$100 million in tax revenue in 2025.¹ As the industry continues to flourish, cannabis jobs must do the same to support families and contribute to our communities.

SB 726 accomplishes this by requiring cannabis licensees to enter into Labor Peace Agreements (LPAs) with bona fide labor organizations to ensure a fair and equitable process for workers to decide whether they want union representation without fear of retaliation from the employer. LPAs within the cannabis industry are not new as states such as New York, California, Delaware and Rhode Island have implemented similar measures.

LPAs benefit workers and businesses alike. They support workers' ability to obtain a fair share of the economic growth while preventing conflicts with employers such as boycotts, picketing, and work stoppages. In utilizing LPAs, Maryland's cannabis industry will continue to grow and ensure that those who play a vital role in its success have a seat at the table and are treated fairly.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 726.

¹ Anthony Martinelli, "Maryland Marijuana Sales Total \$94.5 Million in January 2025, Bringing All-Time Revenue to \$1.78 Billion." The Marijuana Herald-News Break. February 2025.