

Senate Finance Committee

Oral Testimony—HB 622 Cannabis - Licensees - Dispensary Licenses, Micro Dispensary Employees, and Cannabis Agent Training Programs

Committee Hearing: March 25, 2026

Submitted by: Jacquie Cohen Roth, MS, Founder/CEO, CannabizMD, LLC

Madam Chair, members of the committee, my name is Jacquie Cohen Roth. I am the founder of CannabizMD, a Maryland-certified MBE/SBE/DBE company. I am here in favor of HB 622 with an amendment.

The State has invested in my company:

- A 2023 \$100,000 Department of Commerce MSBDFFA loan, which is collateralized by a lien on my home
- A 2024 ExportMD grant
- A Department of Labor EARN grant since 2023
- Three Maryland Technological Internship Program grants

The State has looked at my business and said, “*We believe in this.*”

The Maryland Cannabis Administration spent two years making sure it could not operate.

In 2024, working through acute grief following the death of my daughter, CannabizMD submitted a compliant RVT application in accordance with MCA's published guidance. MCA denied it, using a standard it never published. Refused my appeal.

The MCA took 319 days on a second application — more than three times its own 90-day policy. Then it issued an approval that was incorrectly stated.

Two years. Zero revenue. Eighty thousand dollars of my own money to keep the doors open—while making loan payments to the State on a business the State's own agency would not allow to run.

Now the MCA is asking *you* to pass a law that resets the standards four months after CannabizMD was finally approved as an RVT provider.

If passed as is, HB 622 will financially decimate my company, which has been in operation since December 17, 2017, working to professionalize the cannabis industry through a variety of education and training programs and put people in jobs.

I am asking for one amendment: a 24-month transition period from the original approval date before a mandatory revision is required.

That's it. It doesn't protect bad actors. It simply says that the only Maryland-based RVT provider who waited years—because of the agency's own failures—deserves a fair window to actually operate.

Amend the bill, or defeat it. But please do not pass it as written and tell Maryland's MBE businesses that following the rules provides no protection.

Thank you.