

Testimony: SB 1008

Position: Unfavorable

Committee: Senate Finance Hearing Date: March 31, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee: My name is Connor Whelton. I am writing this today to testify unfavorably for Senate Bill 1008.

Cannabis should be sold through licensed cannabis dispensaries. This fundamentally undercuts the entire legal cannabis industry except for one or two people. Cannabis products should flow from dispensaries to onsite liquor license holders. Maryland has put an immense number of resources for social equity licenses in play through the form of grants totaling in the multi-millions, administrative staff, educational programs, and the list goes on, and to allow SB1008 to pass as is, would undercut all of the previous policies, resources and promises Maryland has made to social equity licenses holders and other licenses. This whole concept of liquor stores selling Cannabis, even in the smallest form is incompressible. Cannabis dispensaries do not sell beer and wine, we sell cannabis. Liquor stores sell alcohol and that is how it should be.