



TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND DISPENSARY
ASSOCIATION (MDDA)

Senate Bill 439—Employment Discrimination—Fire and Rescue Public Safety Employees—
Use of Medical Cannabis

SUPPORT

Senate Finance Committee

February 19, 2026

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a healthy, professional and secure cannabis industry in the State. MDDA works on the State and local level to advance the interests of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Cannabis Industry.

The MDMDA has been a long-time supporter of policies that provide protections for qualifying patients and caregivers enrolled in the Maryland Medical Cannabis Program. Senate Bill 439 would ensure that employers could not penalize fire and rescue public safety employees for their participation in the program. Twenty three states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico either have laws that include some explicit employment protections or courts have ruled in favor of employees. We believe Maryland should follow suit. Medical cannabis can offer targeted health benefits for fire and public safety personnel—especially because their work exposes them to chronic physical strain, stress, trauma and sleep disruption.

We urge the Senate Finance Committee to support patients and caregivers by supporting Senate Bill 439. These protections are so important.

Please vote favorably on Senate Bill 439.