

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1634/SB0995

### Cannabis Licensure – Labor Peace Agreements and Collective Bargaining

April 2, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections/Economic Matters

TO: Hon. Melissa Wells, Chair,  
Hon. Kenneth Kerr, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee

FR: Nelson L. Hill  
Vice President, UFCW Local 27, 21 West Road, Baltimore, MD 21204

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the 21,000 working men and women represented by United Food & Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 27, I am submitting testimony in support of HB1634/SB0995.

Nationally, UFCW cannabis workers can be found across multiple states in growing and cultivating facilities, manufacturing, and processing facilities, and in laboratories and dispensaries, including right here in Maryland.

#### **UFCW Local 27 strongly supports Labor Peace Agreements for renewal of a cannabis license in Maryland and urge you to vote favorably.**

Labor Peace Agreements protect businesses, workers, and consumers, and are an **effective regulatory tool** for the state, and since President Trump has crippled the NLRB with his anti-worker agenda, workers will rely heavily on State legislature for Federal protections loss due to the Presidents “War on Workers.”

We commend Senator Jackson and Delegate Roberts for sponsoring this legislation which we hope is reflective of attitude of the country and of the state of Maryland.

African American workers have historically benefited significantly from labor union membership. Black union members earn significantly more than non-union Black workers & they also have greater access to employer sponsored health benefits, retirement plans and the racial wage gap is smaller in unionized workplaces.

Labor Peace Agreements also closes a loophole some employers have used to deny worker's their rights. The inclusion of a labor peace language in the regulations ensures that workers in this industry have the same rights as other workers in Maryland like casinos, hotels, etc.

And finally, the inclusion of labor peace language for license renewals allows employees to exercise their right to unionize **without threats, intimidation or coercion** and ensures a democratic process.

On behalf of Maryland Cannabis workers, we urge the Committee to support HB1634/SB0995.