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Testimony on HB 0416 Medical Cannabis - Medical Cannabis Business Development
Fund - Establishment

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Madam Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Committee, thank you for your service to Marylanders like me and listening to me today. My name is Sabria Melina Still, I currently live in Prince George's County and am proud to have been born and raised in Maryland. In addition to my written testimony, I need you to hear my support for HB0416. The DHCD provides financial solutions to families, businesses and communities that have long been affected by manufactured generations of poverty in the state of Maryland. This bill is part of a larger collective movement for restorative policies before we can even begin to think about taxing and regulating cannabis. I challenge the members of this committee to comprehend the testimony on a bill that aids in financial literacy and could be the start of intergenerational concentrations of wealth. Restorative justice looks like access to capital and resources to not only build but sustain businesses in an industry once governed by draconian criminal codes. Today, it is my duty to alert my public servants to great public policy that affects me, my family and future generations to come. Today, it is your duty to hear my name and my experience when you consider the effects of a policy like this. As a state, I want to reiterate that we shan't move forward with taxing and regulating recreational cannabis in a legal market without fighting manufactured generational poverty. I urge a favorable report on HB0416.