

February 25, 2020

Hon. Chair Shane E. Pendergrass
6 Bladen Street, House Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB 694 - Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission -
Renaming and Purpose**

Madam Chair,

House Bill 694 is a simple but radically important bill. House Bill 694 transforms the Medical Cannabis Commission the regulatory authority for both medical and adult use cannabis products.

During the interim, the Marijuana Legalization Workgroup heard testimony from a diverse set of stakeholders regarding efforts across the country. Because many states failed to plan and prepare for the future of oversight, they suffer from a near complete lack of ability to regulate their industry. This has led to many problems, such as diversion and the proliferation of the black market.

If we are to consider policy changes to the use of cannabis in the future, the correction action to take right now is to put in place a regulatory authority that will allow us to protect public health and public safety. The right time to plan for the future is right now.

Thank you for the hearing for House Bill 694. I am happy to discuss any questions and I ask for a favorable report.

Delegate Robin Grammer