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LD 40

Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Holly and I'm a budtender at an adult use store. I've got a lot a thoughts about LD 40, and I support it completely.

For one, having been around cannabis for a lot of my life, I find the mandate for background checks in the cannabis industry troubling. It feels like a continuation of the stigma that has surrounded cannabis for generations. Many people in the industry, myself included, have deep roots in cannabis culture and have seen firsthand how it has evolved. Requiring background checks seems to suggest that everyone involved in the industry is somehow untrustworthy, which is far from the truth. It's important to recognize the vast knowledge and experience that many of us bring to the table and to ensure that policies are fair and inclusive for all involved.

While the current cannabis rules say we need to do fingerprinting every year, it seems pretty out of touch. This rule not only burdens industry members with costs and inconvenience but also raises doubts about its actual impact on public safety and reason for being in law. This practice not only consumes resources but also distracts from more effective safety measures. A fingerprint is not required to operate one of the most dangerous things on the planet, a motor-vehicle, yet every year for us cannabis industry workers. It's crucial to reconsider this requirement and adopt more sensible regulatory approaches.

The current cannabis statute is filled with unclear and fuzzy language, presenting significant challenges for me as a budtender trying to learn the law on my own. LD 40 aims to eradicate all instances of murky language, providing much-needed clarity in interpreting and applying cannabis laws. Navigating this ambiguity can be confusing and frustrating. It's especially challenging when different sources interpret the law differently or when there is conflicting information. LD 40's commitment to eliminating ambiguity will make it easier for me and other budtenders to comprehend and adhere to the law. This will not only enhance our ability to serve customers but will also contribute to a more accountable and just legal environment in the cannabis industry.

Please pass LD 40 and make life easier on cannabis industry employees. There's no reason not to, besides simply perpetuating the stigma.