

Grace Falconer
Lisbon Falls
LD 40

Hello VLA Committee, Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Grace Falconer and I am a finance manager for several businesses in the cannabis industry. As a participant in the cannabis industry I support LD 40 for the following reasons: The imposition of limited access areas within the cannabis industry appears redundant and unnecessary, deviating from the practices established in comparable sectors. Unlike alcohol-related establishments, which operate without such stringent restrictions, the cannabis industry seems burdened by an added layer of security measures. The absence of a similar requirement in the alcohol sector raises questions about the rationale behind enforcing such restrictive practices in cannabis establishments. Striking a balance between security and practicality is essential, and this calls for a decentralized approach where businesses can choose who they allow to go where. Making it easier to renew cannabis licenses is necessary for a stronger, smoother-running cannabis industry. By cutting the red tape, businesses can get through regulations without all the usual headaches. Simplifying things like this helps businesses stick to the rules, grow, and stay solid. It's all part of making the cannabis industry feel normal, just like any other legit business. When renewal is simpler and clearer, it helps the industry grow, create jobs, and have clearer rules for everyone to follow. ID verification is a no-brainer. However IDing a 92 year old woman, even when you've already IDed her 92 times, is brainless. We need common sense ID checks like the standard in bars and convenience stores. Getting rid of the stigma around cannabis formalized in law, like what LD 40 is all about, is a big deal. It's not about asking for special treatment; it's just wanting to be treated the same as everyone else. This bill is a push for fairness. Let's update our rules and stop treating cannabis differently. It's time to shake off those old ideas about cannabis and make sure the laws reflect what's happening now. LD 40 is like a step towards a more level playing field for the cannabis industry. Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting LD 40. -Grace Falconer