

Britney Rabon  
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LD 40

Subject: Testimony in Support of LD 40 - Addressing Cannabis Stigma and Promoting Equity

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

Mandating opaque packaging for cannabis products seems nonsensical in the realm of cannabis policy. Such requirements, often rooted in outdated stigmas, fail to align with the broader shift toward transparent and informed cannabis regulations. Opaque packaging inhibits consumers' ability to visually assess products, hindering informed choices and product differentiation. It runs counter to the principles of responsible and transparent marketing, which are crucial for fostering a legitimate and trustworthy cannabis industry. In an era where transparency is increasingly valued, enforcing opaque packaging appears to be a misplaced and counterproductive measure, impeding the industry's progress toward normalization and acceptance.

In the context of the regulated cannabis industry, it is imperative to uphold standards that align with those applied in other legal sectors. Granting law enforcement automatic permission to enter a cannabis business without the owner's consent, a valid warrant, or a recognized exemption raises substantial concerns regarding fairness and privacy. These practices not only contravene fundamental principles of due process but also contribute to the enduring stigma attached to the cannabis sector. Addressing this issue is paramount for establishing an equitable regulatory framework, fostering trust between law enforcement and cannabis businesses, and eradicating unjust biases that have historically plagued the industry. By advocating for equal treatment, we can drive towards a more transparent and just regulatory landscape for the cannabis sector.

In discussing the regulatory framework of the cannabis industry, a noteworthy aberration comes to light – the exclusion of individuals based on prior drug-related transgressions. This practice, reminiscent of an antiquated paradigm, reflects a resistance to shedding outdated societal perceptions. It is paramount to acknowledge that such policies not only contravene contemporary principles of fairness but also contribute to the perpetuation of an unjust bias. Therefore, advocating for the removal of this discriminatory practice within the cannabis sector is not merely a stride towards modernization; it is an assertion of commitment to fostering an industry characterized by impartiality and devoid of the lingering shadows cast by obsolete convictions.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please vote yes on LD 40.

-Britney Rabon