

I would like to thank Chairs Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and the other members of this committee for this opportunity to speak.

I would like to address a previous question that was posed to the bill sponsor.

This question concerned the identification of specific dangerous molds that should be added to microbial compliance testing.

My name is Dr. Sherman Hom and I am the Director of Regulatory Affairs for Medicinal Genomics Corporation. I am a PhD molecular microbiologist with 50 years experience in microbial methods that spans microscopy to DNA sequencing. I have 14 years experience in the cannabis testing and cannabis testing regulations space, which was mostly with the New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories. Medicinal Genomics provides test kits and genomic services that impact the supply chain of the cannabis industry.

Concerning the question about dangerous molds, we strongly recommend testing for the four *Aspergillus* human pathogens, (*A. flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. niger*, and *A. terreus*), which can cause various respiratory illnesses, such as Aspergillosis that can lead to death. We have identified 29 clinical case and epidemiological studies that show persons infected with aspergillosis affiliated with cannabis use. Twenty-five or 58% of US jurisdictions require testing of these human pathogens, which is up from 31% in 2019 - a 27% increase in 6 years.

Moreover, our company has 900 microbiomes and has identified 9 additional dangerous molds that should be considered for required testing in the future to allow cannabis regulatory agencies and method developers. The 4 *aspergillus* human pathogens can be tested simultaneously with a single AOAC certified Performance tested method that has been validated by a lab using cannabis as a sample type. I hope that you pass this bill.