

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

My name is Davon Glover and I am currently a store manager in the cannabis industry and have worked in the industry for 3 years, working my way up from budtender.

I am here today to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed legislation that aims to repeal the mandatory background checks, fingerprinting, and individual identification cards for individuals employed in the cannabis industry. This legislation, which I believe aligns with the values of fairness, practicality, and inclusivity, represents a significant step towards creating a regulatory framework that respects the rights of individuals and fosters a thriving and equitable cannabis industry.

The requirement for mandatory background checks is rooted in the stigma, and introduces an unnecessary barrier for individuals seeking employment in the cannabis sector. This practice stands in stark contrast to all other hospitality industries. The proposed repeal recognizes that individuals with past convictions should not be automatically disqualified from participating in an industry that is evolving beyond the stigma of the past.

Similarly, the annual fingerprinting requirement is burdensome, serving as a symbol of mistrust for cannabis workers. The practice not only contributes to a sense of being treated like a criminal but is also out of step with the norms of other professions. Repealing this requirement acknowledges that individuals in the cannabis industry, like any other, should not face disproportionate scrutiny and demonstrates a commitment to treating them with the same dignity and respect afforded to workers in other fields.

The insistence on individual identification cards for cannabis employees is a practice rooted in outdated notions and perpetuates the stigma surrounding the industry. Repealing this requirement recognizes that cannabis workers should not be singled out and treated differently from their counterparts in other sectors. It is an essential step towards normalizing the cannabis industry, shedding the vestiges of its past and recognizing its legitimate place in the broader business landscape.

I urge the committee to consider the positive impact that all of LD 40, but particularly repealing background checks, fingerprinting, and individual identification cards will have on the cannabis industry in our state. This legislative change represents an opportunity to champion fairness, eliminate unnecessary barriers, and cultivate an industry that is inclusive and aligned with contemporary norms. I wholeheartedly support this legislation and encourage its swift passage for the betterment of our community and the flourishing cannabis sector.

Thank you for your attention and dedication to creating policies that reflect the needs and values of our evolving society. Please pass LD 40.