

ACADEMY OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES

**Testimony Before the General Law Committee
Feb 2, 2021**

Memo in support of

HB 5313 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA STATUTES

Dear Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino, Senator Witkos, Representative Rutigliano and Members of the General Law Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 5313. The Academy of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (AMMD) is a special interest academy within the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. Together, Connecticut's dispensaries serve the health and wellness of over 40,000 patients.

HB 5313 makes needed and timely revisions to the medical marijuana statutes.

Key among these revisions is the elimination of the application and annual administration fees currently levied on medical marijuana patients. Although medical marijuana is technically tax-free, these fees effectively, and unfairly, tax medical marijuana patients for access to their medication. No other medical treatment or therapy requires such fees, and their repeal is long overdue.

Likewise, expanding the number of caregivers available to help support patients will mean easier and more reliable access for patients without compromising safety or product security.

However, we are concerned by the proposal prohibiting medical marijuana producers from offering "anything of value" to a licensed dispensary. It is not clear what the goal of the section is and it may, in fact, be redundant of existing regulation.

We appreciate and support the relief that HB 5313 brings to Connecticut's medical marijuana patients, but as an Academy, we also want to be sure that the playing field for all our dispensary members is fair and level.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nathan Tinker
Secretary, Academy of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries
CEO, Connecticut Pharmacists Association