

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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WITNESS TESTIMONY

Rabbi Jack Kahn.18

Dawn Lee-Carty10

Adrian Salsgiver20

Yvette Alexander29

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 1:33 p.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Good afternoon,
4 everyone. We have a public hearing on the
5 Medical Marijuana Proposed Rulemaking. Good
6 afternoon, I am Donovan Anderson, Chairman of the
7 Board. We have six Board members here today.

8 The six Board members who are here
9 today are Mr. James Short, Mr. Bobby Catto,
10 Ms. Raffi Crockett, Ms. Jeni Hansen, and Mr.
11 Edward Grandis.

12 The Board has six members in
13 attendance and that constitutes a quorum for the
14 conduct of business today. And so, as I said,
15 again, good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for
16 joining us today.

17 As a public hearing on the --before I
18 start, if anyone has any technical difficulties,
19 while we have this hearing, please, please
20 contact simone.andrews2@dc.gov or you put
21 whatever technical difficulties you're having in
22 the question and answer feature.

23 As I said, good afternoon, everyone.
24 Thank you for joining us today at the public
25 hearing on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board's

1 Medical Cannabis Emergency and Proposed Rules.

2 By way of background on July 28th,
3 2020, the Council of the District of Columbia
4 passed legislation that transferred the Medical
5 Cannabis Program from the D.C. Department of
6 Health to the Board.

7 The Board assumed jurisdiction over
8 the District's Medical Cannabis Program on
9 October 1st, 2020. Since that time, the Board
10 has taken deliberate steps to ensure a seamless
11 transition of the program from Department of
12 Health to the Board.

13 One of the Board's first steps was to
14 host a public roundtable on September 6th, 2020.
15 The public roundtable was well attended,
16 informative and helpful to the Board to hear
17 directly from industry stakeholders about the
18 success, shortcomings and areas of opportunity
19 for the Medical Cannabis Program.

20 After holding the public roundtable,
21 the Board issued a series of emergency
22 rulemakings to address many of the issues raised
23 during the roundtable.

24 Those emergency rulemakings were:

25 1) the Medical Marijuana Delivery Notice of Third

1 Emergency; 2) the Non-Resident Notice of
2 Emergency Rulemaking; and 3) the Temporary
3 Registration Card Notice of the Emergency
4 Rulemaking.

5 Since the adoption of these three
6 emergency rulemakings the Board has had the
7 opportunity to review the Medical Cannabis
8 Program more broadly.

9 The greater understanding and
10 long-term view resulted in the Medical Cannabis
11 Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking
12 adopted by the Board on March 3, 2021, and which
13 is the subject of today's public hearing, public
14 rulemaking hearing. The Emergency and Proposed
15 Rulemaking does the following.

16 One, allows qualifying patients to
17 administer or have medical marijuana administered
18 at locations other than their residence,
19 including the residence of another person is
20 permitted, or at a school with a policy for
21 administering medication on the premises.

22 Two, repeals the requirement for a
23 mandatory training program for recommended,
24 authorized practitioners.

25 Three, establishes the process for

1 conducting show cause, fact-finding and
2 safekeeping hearing.

3 Four, revises the composition of the
4 Advisory Committee.

5 Five, updates the selection review
6 process and selection criteria.

7 Six, allows applicants for employment
8 including managers at the cultivation center,
9 dispensary, or testing laboratory to obtain a
10 temporary registration card during the COVID-19
11 pandemic.

12 Seven, allows dispensaries or other
13 educational classes and demonstrations.

14 Eight, permits the delivery and
15 curbside pickup of medical marijuana and allow
16 dispensaries to have up to five delivery
17 vehicles.

18 Nine, eliminates from the regulations
19 the maximum number of marijuana plants that a
20 cultivation center can grow at one time.

21 Ten, updates the minimum age and entry
22 requirement.

23 Eleven, clarifies the civil fines
24 range and process while revises the appeals
25 process to clarify that appeals of the Board's

1 decisions are sent to the District of Columbia
2 Court of Appeals, rather than to the Office of
3 Administrative Hearings.

4 I want to thank everybody who is
5 present today to share their thoughts with the
6 Board. At this juncture, we will proceed with
7 our first witnesses.

8 Ms. Andrews, can you please? It's my
9 understanding that we have five witnesses who
10 signed up today. And so, can you please allow
11 the witnesses to be able to testify?

12 MS. ANDREWS: Sure, stand by. Mr. or
13 Ms. Salsgiver, your rights have been elevated.
14 Ms. Dawn Lee-Carty, I'm going to unmute your line
15 for you.

16 Ms. Alexander, your rights have been
17 elevated. Mr. Kahn, your rights have been
18 elevated. And that's all, Mr. Chair. We do have
19 few extra people on the line. But that's all my
20 records show, that --

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
22 currently, we have the people's who's name I have
23 to testify are: Rabbi Jeffrey A. Kahn; we have
24 Dawn Lee-Carty; Zoey Carty; Adrian Salsgiver; and
25 Yvette Alexander. These are the people that I

1 have who are scheduled to testify.

2 If there are other people on the line
3 who wish to testify, please identify yourself
4 through the chat and Ms. Andrews will elevate
5 your rights. So what I will do and the order, I
6 will listen or that will follow.

7 I will have Rabbi Khan who will
8 testify. Then, we'll have Dawn Carty, then, Zoey
9 Carty, then, Adrian Salsgiver, and counsel
10 member, former counsel member Yvette Alexander
11 from Alexander and Associates will testify.

12 I will allow each party five minutes
13 to testify. And once they have testified, if
14 there are others who wish to testify, please
15 alert us through the chat and I will recognize
16 you.

17 And so with that, without further ado,
18 we will go with Rabbi Jeffrey Kahn. You can -- I
19 don't see you. I see that you are identified on
20 my screen.

21 So if you are, if you have a camera,
22 you can turn your camera on so we can see you
23 while you testify, sir. But it's sort of like
24 each party, prior to testifying, just identify
25 themselves for the record please.

1 So we can start with you, Rabbi Khan.
2 Are you there, Rabbi Khan? I see him. I see his
3 name in front of my screen, but I'm not getting a
4 response.

5 MS. ANDREWS: Stand by, Mr. Chair.
6 He's logged in like three times. I'm going to
7 elevate another.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, thank
9 you.

10 RABBI KHAN: Hello?

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Rabbi Khan?
12 I'm sorry. I'm not sure how many lines you have
13 open. So I'm getting feedback. So need you to
14 just unmute one line.

15 RABBI KHAN: How about is now better?

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, it's now
17 better. I can't, I cannot see here.

18 RABBI KHAN: I can't hear you, but can
19 you me?

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I can hear you.
21 I cannot see though. But if you have a camera,
22 that's fine. But it appears that you might have
23 more than one line open because I'm here
24 feedback.

25 RABBI KHAN: I'm going to close out,

1 and try and come back.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
3 thank you.

4 MS. ANDREWS: I just wanted to make an
5 announcement for all those that are attending, if
6 there are more than one person in the same room,
7 you guys should be wearing headphones. There
8 should be no speakers in the background.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
10 Ms. Andrews.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: What I will do
12 -- do I have Dawn Lee-Carty, here? Is that
13 person on the line?

14 MS. LEE-CARTY: Yes, I'm here.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. I
16 can't see you, so that's why I'm asking. So I
17 don't know where you are on the screen. So we
18 can have you please identify yourself for the
19 record. And then, you can have five minutes to
20 speak.

21 MS. LEE-CARTY: Okay. I'm trying to
22 enable my camera but it's not giving me an
23 option. Give me one second, please.
24 Unfortunately -- can you still hear me, sir?

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, I can hear

1 you.

2 MS. LEE-CARTY: Okay. Unfortunately,
3 I don't know why I don't have the camera
4 availability.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, that's
6 fine. I can hear you loud and clear. So go
7 ahead, please.

8 MS. LEE-CARTY: Okay. So good
9 afternoon. My name is Dawn Lee-Carty, Founder of
10 Speak Life and mother of Zoey Carty.

11 It's been 443 days of me wanting to
12 reach any Government official possible from
13 Department of Health, to the Attorney General's
14 Office regarding a situation with my child that
15 almost took her life.

16 And today makes 443 days that I'm
17 actually able to speak today. And I'm thankful
18 that I am here, today. And I'm thankful that it
19 didn't happen 200 days, or 100 days in because
20 the emotions were way too high.

21 And today I'm here on a very even and
22 level, you know, solution focus playground for
23 all of us. I'm here today because I saw going to
24 Section 602, I mean, Section 204.A, the limited
25 liability that you have, where there is no

1 liability assumed for the patients who ingest
2 medical cannabis.

3 I'm here to speak out on that on
4 behalf of being a patient advocate, a Medical
5 Cannabis Patient Advocate for six years and an
6 epilepsy advocate for 13 years.

7 My young daughter would have up to 65
8 seizures a day. She was born with frontal lobe
9 epilepsy. She's ingested over 17 different
10 pharmaceuticals in her short period of life. And
11 to most of them she was drug resistant.

12 But in 2015 when all other matters
13 failed, you know, I dove into the research of
14 medical cannabis. And it was hard for me to make
15 that decision, but it was the best decision that
16 I've made.

17 Because, you know, five years later,
18 my daughter went from having 68 seizures a day to
19 being 85 percent seizure free, to having four
20 years of being pharmaceutical free, and to being
21 five years hospital free. Some place where we
22 always stayed.

23 She recently enacted law in 2019, this
24 Fair Student Act, which allows children to
25 medicate on school property with a licensed

1 health care professional and she championed that
2 law.

3 And we were forced by the Department
4 of Health to submerge into the Medical Cannabis
5 Program and was told that our home grow would not
6 be allowed on school grounds.

7 Well, at that time, it was just the
8 fact that Zoey actually having access was the
9 benefit. So November 19th, once we got all our
10 credentials together, she began medicating with a
11 local dispensaries, CBD.

12 Only three months into this ingesting,
13 Zoey, on February 8th, 2020, went into a grand
14 mal seizure, went into respiratory arrest, and
15 stop breathing for a minute.

16 She was rushed to Children's Hospital
17 where they did a toxicology report to find that
18 Zoey -- I hold on. I informed the attending
19 physician that Zoey was medical cannabis patient
20 for five years. So it's quite obvious that she
21 would test positive for cannabis.

22 However, the toxicology report came
23 back positive for ecstasy. So this was mind
24 blowing to me, the attending physician, everyone
25 at the hospital.

1 My daughter was admitted into ICU for
2 six days because the intensity of the seizure
3 caused mild swelling on the right side of her
4 brain.

5 The doctors, everyone, were under the
6 assumption that, you know, I didn't have access
7 to give it to her, that her CBD bottle must have
8 been contaminated.

9 When Zoey was discharged from the
10 hospital six days later, I waited like about five
11 days. And drove Zoey and the bottle of CBD oil
12 to Massachusetts to have a third party test it.

13 And when it was third-party tested, it
14 came back five days later that there's an
15 additive that was in Zoey's CBD oil called
16 piperonyl butoxide. It's an additive that is
17 commonly used in general cannabis cultivation
18 practices.

19 However, piperonyl butoxide was
20 banned by the FDA in 1979 because it has the
21 molecular and chemical structures of MDMA.
22 Hence, my daughter's positive ecstasy result in
23 the hospital.

24 CPS was called. An investigation was
25 launched. And it was by far the worst. Four

1 hundred and forty three days later, Zoey is no
2 longer medicating with cannabis. And it's not by
3 choice. It's by safety.

4 And I'm here today with only five
5 minutes and I'm trying to push it as fast as I
6 can, is to say that there is a public health
7 crisis that is prevalent in Washington D.C.

8 I understand that we do not have
9 funding for regulations or testing because it's,
10 you know, still federally illegal. However, I
11 propose one contaminant at a time.

12 And with one contaminant at a time,
13 I have all the science of PBO. We've been
14 studying this for 443 days. We have a case study
15 that's been submitted to California University
16 Berkeley, which is currently under peer review.

17 We understand that a college student
18 could be going out to apply for that dream job
19 they stood eight years in school for and, you
20 know, he medicates with CBD because he has
21 problem sleeping at night.

22 However, his employer is requesting
23 him for urine tests. So this young college grad
24 presents his ID showing that he is a licensed
25 medical cannabis patient. However, his urine

1 comes back positive for ecstasy.

2 This is why we need to test for all 68
3 contaminants. But I think that that's a far
4 reach, especially, with the rapidly growing of
5 the cannabis industry. Everything is so fast.
6 There's not enough research. There's not enough
7 science.

8 But guess what? We have science on
9 piperonyl butoxide. We have science to know that
10 it acted as an antagonist opposed to a
11 protagonist when my daughter was ingesting CBD.
12 The PBO actually blocked her CB1 receptor from
13 receiving CBD. And for three months, she slowly
14 ingested small amounts of PBO, which is ecstasy.

15 I'm like, once again, I have to
16 announce that I'm very thankful that I did not
17 have anyone that, to return my calls when I was
18 requesting this for 443 days. I'm so thankful
19 that no one did.

20 At that time, I was an enraged mother.
21 I was an emotional mother and my child was back
22 to like seven different pharmaceuticals. She no
23 longer has any drive. I have to fix my house now
24 because she falls just randomly.

25 Because cannabis really saved her

1 life. And taking away the patient's right to
2 grow clean medicine, I think that is unfair
3 because we grew organically.

4 And it's good when patients know when
5 they're ingesting, especially, when we're in a
6 market where we have, patients are required to
7 sign a limited liability, so that there's no
8 liability if you ingest something that makes you
9 sick.

10 If a patient needs to sign this, then
11 they should also have a Plan B, an the option to
12 grow their own medication. And in the interim of
13 it all, I strongly propose one contaminant at a
14 time.

15 And then, let's build from it. Let's
16 create our own framework, you know, that will
17 ensure the safety of the patient and the
18 consumer.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
20 thank you, Ms. Carty. Thank you, very much for
21 you're your testimony. All right. Now we will
22 go back to a run by Jeffrey Kahn. Can you please
23 identify yourself on record and you have five
24 minutes to testify, please.

25 RABBI KAHN: I am Rabbi Jeff Kahn and

1 my family and I created, own, and operate Tacoma
2 Wellness Center, D.C.'s oldest, continuously,
3 operating medical cannabis dispensary in Ward 4.

4 I've asked to speak today to just
5 spend a moment in support of the Medical Cannabis
6 Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking,
7 which the Board approved on March 3rd.

8 We appreciate the clarification of the
9 civil fines, range, and process, and the
10 establishment of the process for conducting show
11 cause, fact-finding, and safekeeping hearings.

12 Additionally, Tacoma Wellness Center
13 supports allowing qualified patients to
14 administer or have medical cannabis administered
15 at locations other than their residence,
16 including the residence of another, if permitted,
17 or at a school with a policy for administering
18 medication on the premises.

19 And allowing dispensaries to offer
20 educational classes and demonstrations. The
21 permitting of delivery and curbside pickup of
22 medical cannabis and eliminating from the
23 regulations, finally, the maximum number of
24 cannabis plants that our cultivation center can
25 grow at one time.

1 We'd also like to go on record today
2 to thank the Council and Mayor Bowser for
3 shifting regulatory authority for the Medical
4 Cannabis Program to ABRA. We've already seen
5 many, many positive changes the past six months.

6 And we look forward to working with
7 ABRA to strengthen our Medical Cannabis Program
8 to keep medical cannabis safely and readily
9 available and to remove the remaining roadblocks
10 that prevent patient access here in the District
11 of Columbia. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
13 Rabbi Kahn for your testimony, for your
14 presentation. All right. All right. Is Ms.
15 Zoey Carty, are you on the line?

16 MS. LEE-CARTY: Unfortunately, Zoey
17 Carty is my daughter, and she wanted to speak on
18 behalf of herself and her experience. However,
19 she's kind of lost faith in our government. And
20 she's a very outspoken young advocate. So we
21 will submit a written testimony on her behalf,
22 sir.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
24 Thank you. All right. Thank you very much.
25 Adrian Salsgiver? Can you please identify

1 yourself for the record, please?

2 MR. SALSGIVER: Yes, I live in uptown,
3 D.C.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Go
5 ahead, sir.

6 MR. SALSGIVER: And I'm a medical
7 marijuana patient. And I would like to say that
8 first off, nobody and no government has the right
9 to tell me not to smoke marijuana. Now
10 government has the power because it's enforced
11 with guns and violence, but it doesn't have the
12 right.

13 The right to self medicate is a
14 God-given right, not a privilege. And the people
15 in D.C. voted instinctively for the right to self
16 medicate when Initiative 81 passed with 70
17 percent of the vote last year.

18 Now, medicating with cannabis is not
19 just a quality of life issue, or to help some
20 people deal with the little problems that could
21 be addressed with aspirin. Cannabis is a
22 lifesaving medicine. And there should be no
23 fines and no penalties for smoking marijuana.

24 Everywhere cigarettes are permitted to
25 be smoked, smoking marijuana needs to be allowed.

1 And all patients need to administer or have
2 medical cannabis administered at locations other
3 than your residence, including just about
4 everywhere, everywhere smoking cigarettes is
5 allowed.

6 Also, I see that you want to allow
7 dispensaries to offer educational classes and
8 demonstrations. Well, I've taken classes at the
9 Rabbi's Tacoma Wellness Center.

10 Yes, I used to grow, I used to go to
11 grow class on Saturday mornings and it was very
12 educational, informative, and fun because you get
13 to meet other like minded people.

14 So you know that educational stuff
15 should continue. And oh, you want to permit
16 delivery and curbside pickup of medical cannabis?
17 Well, I think it's a little late for that because
18 delivery services are doing quite well in D.C.

19 My building management has sent out
20 nasty emails telling people not to smoke and how
21 it is against the law. Yet my building is a
22 hotspot for marijuana delivery services.
23 Overregulating delivery will not work.

24 The free market must determine how
25 many vehicles a dispensary can operate because

1 they will be going into competition with already
2 established delivery services, which offer much
3 lower prices than for dispensaries.

4 One of my other major concerns is
5 seniors. Now, my pharmacist says that half the
6 neighborhood is on some kind of pill. Well,
7 these are dangerous pharmaceutical medications.
8 And most seniors don't need this. All they need
9 is a little marijuana.

10 So there needs to be an outreach to
11 seniors. Now we have funds to try to get people
12 vaccinated. You need to have funds to promote
13 cannabis as a medical alternative to these
14 dangerous pharmaceutical drugs. So you know
15 we're looking at funding to promote cannabis.

16 And oh, also, I'd like to talk about
17 my medical marijuana card. Recently, I've been
18 told that effective Thursday, July 1st, all
19 residents must present a valid medical Marijuana
20 and Cannabis Program card, or caregiver card to
21 purchase up to four ounces of marijuana.

22 Well, I don't see why they're limiting
23 that or would want to limit. You know, who's
24 going to smoke more than four? If you if you're
25 going to smoke more than four ounces of marijuana

1 in a month, you probably need it.

2 Anyway on, so in January I paid for my
3 medical marijuana card. But on February 3rd,
4 without any kind of a warning, I was issued a
5 privilege letter, called an approval letter
6 instead of the card that I paid for.

7 I was told the approval letter was the
8 only ID verification being provided at this time
9 and that the Medical Cannabis Program is not
10 issuing cards during the so-called pandemic.

11 All doctors, dispensaries, citizens of
12 the District and everybody else involved needs to
13 be informed that, so they can tell everybody they
14 will be getting a letter instead of a card. What
15 rights --

16 You know, I really don't want the
17 letter. I don't want a privilege letter. I want
18 a card, you know, an ID card, Muriel Bowser
19 Medical Marijuana card.

20 So I feel like I got ripped off having
21 to spend money on a doctor and paying for the
22 card and everything. And then, I get a privilege
23 letter.

24 So I'm hoping I get a card pretty soon
25 since I paid for it. Maybe sometime after the

1 pandemic is over, which I don't think is going to
2 end.

3 But anyway, another thing is the
4 farmers' market. Cannabis is already being sold
5 at the farmers' markets. I have here cannabis
6 that I purchased at the DuPont Circle Farmers'
7 Market.

8 And the problem is it's not any good.
9 It just says it CBD. And you know, it's just, I
10 smoked some and it made my lungs sort of felt
11 like I snuffed a whole pack of marbles or
12 something.

13 So what, you know? We need to let
14 the, you need to be able to sell cannabis at the
15 farmers' market and it needs to be good stuff.
16 Not this.

17 So let's what else? Also, I noticed
18 that some of the Mayor's safe cannabis sales
19 after 2021 takes away some of the Initiative 71
20 that the people voted for.

21 I mean, there shouldn't be any changes
22 to that. And, you know, there should not be any
23 limits to any, you know, amount that you have, or
24 can grow, or anything like that.

25 I mean, you know, this is crazy. And

1 illegal casual sales, people need to be able to,
2 you know, have adult consensual activity,
3 meaning, you know, if somebody sells me
4 marijuana, you know, whatever. You know what I
5 mean?

6 And well, I'd like to just end by
7 saying that in 1992, I saw the Rodney King police
8 beating on television. And without me missing a
9 beat, like, I immediately said out loud, that's
10 nothing compared to what the Syracuse police did
11 to me.

12 The reason the Syracuse police got
13 away with their brutal heinous crimes was because
14 I had a tiny amount of marijuana on me. And my
15 lawyer said, you know, no Court or Judge, or
16 anything is going to believe some kid that smokes
17 marijuana over Police Officers.

18 And so that's why the police got away
19 with it. And because of that event that happened
20 in the late 70s, I'm still collecting Social
21 Security Disability for my PTSD. And I really
22 don't want anybody to tell me that I can't smoke
23 marijuana.

24 Because I have, I've been, you know,
25 I've been through all the other medications that,

1 you know. And I have several bottles of pills
2 here. You know, I mean, just crazy stuff,
3 Remeron, Propanolol, just all these pills.

4 And, like, this one is from 2003. So,
5 I knew, I've always known that marijuana was the
6 only thing that ever helped my PTSD, but I didn't
7 know what PTSD was. And I was never able to put
8 two and two together.

9 But I can now. I can now. And I'm
10 telling you, big pharmaceutical pills like this
11 are very bad and very dangerous. And the only
12 good thing out there is marijuana, and it should
13 be legal.

14 There should be no police involved at
15 all. You know, that's another thing. I remember
16 talking to Chief Peter Newsham. And he was
17 saying that when the police smell marijuana that
18 means that there's some other kind of criminal
19 activity going on.

20 And that gives the police an excuse to
21 pounce. You know, like, if you smell marijuana
22 in an alley that means that there's some other
23 criminal activity going on, like, they might be
24 negotiating prostitution or something.

25 And so you know, this kind of

1 attitude, this kind of stuff has got to stop.
2 So, well, I think I've been taken up a lot of
3 your time. And I don't hear anybody, you know,
4 asking me any questions. But if you got any
5 questions for me, I'd be glad to answer.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
7 Thank you very much for your testimony,
8 Mr. Salsgiver.

9 MR. SALSGIVER: Anything for me from
10 the Board?

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm going to
12 let everyone testified first, sir. And when, if
13 we have time, I would open the forum up for
14 people to ask and answer questions. So let me go
15 through the other folks who need to testify.
16 Then we'll have an opportunity for that. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. SALSGIVER: That's great, thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. All
21 right, sir. We now have former Council Member
22 Yvette Alexander. You have, I give everyone five
23 minutes.

24 And I'll go, I'll be happy, I have had
25 some leeway. But I know, Ms. Alexander, when you

1 were the Council Member, I know what, you know
2 what it means. So you have five minutes. Thank
3 you. Go ahead.

4 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, all.
5 Greetings to you, Chairman Anderson and the ABC
6 Board Members. I'm Yvette Alexander with Y
7 Alexander and Associates and I'm representing the
8 position of the District of Columbia Cannabis
9 Trade Association.

10 Linda Mercado Green is the Board
11 Chairperson. The DCCTA was formed to advocate
12 for improved access for patients in our city's
13 Medical Cannabis Program.

14 And they've actually been in inception
15 since this year. It was originally they started
16 the D.C. Medical cannabis Trade Association,
17 which is, which was in existence from 2013 to
18 2021.

19 The DCCTA would like to provide their
20 recommendations for the Emergency and Proposed
21 Rulemaking Amendments of Subtitle C of Chapter,
22 of Title 22 of the DCMR.

23 We strongly feel that emphasis on
24 civil fines and penalties, in addition to
25 criminal penalties should focus on illegal

1 cannabis operations.

2 I think some mentioned it, previously,
3 what the outcomes can be. You don't know what
4 products you're getting. Sanctions must be
5 established for property owners, allowing these
6 illegal activities to take place on their
7 properties. Liens on their property should be
8 considered, as well.

9 The Board's decision on the appeals
10 process should remain with the Office of
11 Administrative Hearings, referring cases to the
12 Court of Appeals will be a longer and more costly
13 process.

14 The association agrees with the
15 locations allowing qualifying patients to
16 administer their medical marijuana and
17 dispensaries should be included among these
18 locations provided if they have the designated
19 space and the desire to give patients that
20 option.

21 We support repealing the requirement
22 for mandatory training program for recommending
23 authorized practitioners. And the revision of
24 the composition of the Advisory Committee should
25 include: at least one member from a D.C. licensed

1 cannabis, medical cannabis dispensary; at least
2 one member from a D.C. licensed medical cannabis
3 cultivation center; and at least one member from
4 a D.C. licensed medical cannabis testing lab.

5 Updating the selection review process
6 and criteria should address all areas of social
7 equity, not just one particular aspect or group.
8 Since there is extensive work to be done in this
9 area, the conversation should commence and this
10 should move forward before adult recreational use
11 starts.

12 To ensure fairness, for now, a point
13 system should be used rather than a set-aside
14 system for selection, giving point preference for
15 predetermined criteria such as CBE, District
16 residents, returning citizens, etc.

17 The temporary registration for
18 employment at dispensary's cultivation centers
19 and testing labs currently being considered
20 through the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic
21 should be made permanent.

22 This will allow businesses to hire
23 without delay, waiting for the completion of
24 background checks, which have been proven to be
25 very time consuming. Dispensaries should be

1 allowed to offer educational classes and
2 demonstrations on site.

3 And in addition to the maximum of buy
4 vehicles allowed for delivery, there should be an
5 option of using their employees or third party
6 delivery service.

7 The association is in full support of
8 the plant count elimination to address adequate
9 supply and producing a variety of strains and
10 edibles.

11 Updating the age and entry
12 requirements, we do support medical patients 18
13 years and older should be allowed to enter
14 dispensaries. Also, a parent who is present with
15 the child should be able to bring them in at the
16 discretion of the dispensary owner.

17 The association requests that before
18 any regulations are finalized, they're able to
19 offer additional input and approval and look
20 forward to serving in an advisory capacity and
21 developing future regulations.

22 In closing the DCCTA looks forward to
23 the renaming of ABRA to the Alcohol Beverage
24 Cannabis Regulatory Administration to reflect its
25 new role in the cannabis regulation.

1 And requests to have at least one
2 non-voting member in the legal cannabis industry
3 to serve on the Board. And that said, I'd be
4 glad to answer any questions that you may have.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
6 Council Member Alexander. I'll just ask that you
7 formally submit your testimony in writing to the
8 Agency. Our agency would appreciate receiving
9 your testimony. All right. Thank you.

10 Are there any other? I don't have a
11 witness list. I don't have any other witnesses
12 who have informed the Board that they're willing
13 to testify. If there's anyone else online who
14 would, who are willing to testify, can you
15 please, excuse me --

16 Can you please identify yourself in
17 the chat and I will have your rights elevated
18 allowing you to testify. So if there's anyone
19 else out there, please announce yourself in the
20 chat.

21 And we'll have your rights elevated.
22 I'll give you about maybe about another minute to
23 see if we have anyone who wants to who wants to
24 testify.

25 MR. SALSGIVER: I would just like to

1 say something.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry. Can
3 you -- hold on, hold on one minute,
4 Mr. Salsgiver. Hold on. I just want to make
5 sure that we don't have anyone else who wishes to
6 testify. And I said I'd give you one minute.

7 It doesn't not appear to me that
8 anyone has identified themselves. Yes, sir?
9 What is it that you have to say? Please, again,
10 identify yourself for the record.

11 MR. SALSGIVER: Oh, hi. This is
12 Adrian Salsgiver, again. And I would just like
13 to say that I think that alcohol is a very
14 vicious, dangerous drug. And does not belong in
15 the same category with marijuana, which is a very
16 kind and good medicine.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, sir.
18 Do, does any Board members have any questions for
19 any of the witnesses? And they want to ask any
20 questions?

21 MEMBER CROCKETT: This is
22 Ms. Crockett, I do.

23 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, go ahead,
24 Ms. Crockett.

25 MEMBER CROCKETT: Ms. Lee-Carty, are

1 you still on the line?

2 MS. LEE-CARTY: Yes, I am.

3 MEMBER CROCKETT: How are you today?

4 MS. LEE-CARTY: I'm better. How are
5 you?

6 MEMBER CROCKETT: I'm great. I'm sorry
7 that Zoey is feeling defeated and didn't want to
8 testify today. I've seen your bright, dynamic
9 daughter advocating for herself and advocating
10 for medical cannabis patients. And I was hoping
11 that the my fellow Board Members would have that
12 honor, as well.

13 But I do, definitely understand, you
14 know, her stance. And I'm so sorry about that. I
15 just want to be clear that you are, there are two
16 things that you really, really want from us. One
17 is testing for PBOs and banning of PBOs. Am I
18 correct?

19 MS. LEE-CARTY: Yes.

20 MEMBER CROCKETT: And the second is
21 the ability to provide home growth for your minor
22 child or any other minors who are also medical
23 patients?

24 MS. LEE-CARTY: Correct. I feel
25 simply because there is a very low lack of

1 testing with supposedly being 68 contaminants
2 that should be tested in the cannabis plant in
3 order for it to be deemed medical.

4 And we're lacking with barely no
5 testing due to regulatory issues. It's only
6 safe, that you know, a parent like myself who is
7 very critical on what her daughter puts in her
8 body medicates effectively with clean medicine.

9 And this should expand not only for
10 Zoey, but for any patient or any consumer due to
11 the fact of the horrible backlash that she's gone
12 through and others may experience. I'm
13 addressing this issue because it, it's really a
14 very critical issue that can affect people in
15 ways that you would not believe.

16 Zoey is a bright light. My daughter,
17 like, I'm constantly trying to reassure her that
18 it will be okay. But she doesn't have hope at
19 this moment. She doesn't like that she's taking
20 pills after not taking pharmaceuticals for five
21 years.

22 She doesn't like the fact that she tested
23 positive for ecstasy. She doesn't like that it
24 fell on the hands of the dispensary, the
25 cultivator, the processor.

1 I don't like that. Like, we advocated
2 and educated patients for years on how to
3 medicate for what illnesses and also promoted
4 product safety and making sure that you're not
5 just buying from the corner store or from the guy
6 on the street.

7 But when you walk into a dispensary
8 and ingest a bottle of CBD oil that is
9 contaminated with a pipernonyl butoxide that
10 should never even be there. And then, a child's
11 totally life changes, it raises concern for how
12 this cannabis climate should go moving for it.

13 And like I said, I'm just thankful
14 because 100 days ago, 200 days ago, 300 days ago,
15 I was a broken mother. I mean, my child would
16 take showers and seize in the shower. We had to
17 pad up her room because she was dropping in
18 seizures.

19 So she's on all these pharmaceuticals.
20 Nothing's helping. But the only thing that had
21 helped was cannabis. And then, it was in the
22 middle of a pandemic.

23 So we didn't have the access of having
24 drivers pull up and drop off her medication. I'm
25 now researching pharmaceuticals and getting those

1 and they're still not working.

2 Or calling 911 and having to make the
3 decision of whether I'm going to allow Zoey to go
4 back to the hospital because she had a grand mal,
5 and be exposed to COVID. Or just let them
6 stabilizer her here and keep her home.

7 So these 443 days have by far been the
8 roughest days as a mother, challenging to keep,
9 that was challenged to keep her child alive.
10 Dealing with COVID, angry that there was no
11 accountability with anybody in the government
12 office.

13 And you know, then I just dove myself
14 into science. I dove myself into research of
15 these contaminants. And it's not just PBO. But
16 I'm just asking for one contaminant at a time.

17 I think that if we create a framework
18 of one contaminant at a time -- we already know
19 the knowledge of PBO. I can give you all the
20 information. You can cross research my
21 information.

22 Then we can go on to the other 68
23 contaminants, as time goes along, which will
24 ensure public safety, which will ensure clean
25 medicine for patients to ingest.

1 Because this is supposed to be the
2 alternative to pharmaceuticals. No one has died
3 from cannabis, no one. But my daughter almost
4 lost her life. And it's been hard to Speak Life.
5 This is what we do for seven, six years is Speak
6 Life.

7 And for this past year, it's been hard
8 to Speak Life. It's been hard to, you know,
9 consult. And I haven't consulted with anyone
10 because I don't know where they're getting their
11 product from.

12 It's a dispensary, but has it been
13 tested? Has it been tested for contaminants, you
14 know? And so, I have to now mute my voice. And
15 this is something that I saw my child again.

16 I saw her lights, her eyes light up.
17 I saw a child that thrived. I saw a child that
18 was so happy she would speak with you and tell
19 you how pretty you are.

20 And, you know, advise you, and educate
21 you on cannabis. And now, I have a child that
22 doesn't even want to stand before a camera and
23 testify, something that she's so comfortably able
24 to do.

25 She doesn't want to do it. And I

1 don't want to force her because she's already had
2 enough. But I wish she was here to speak her
3 voice. I know she does say that she doesn't like
4 taking pharmaceuticals. She wish it never
5 happened to us. Why did they do it to her?

6 And it's been questions that I've been
7 challenged as a mother to ask because I'm asking
8 myself the same thing. How did this happen? How
9 do we have a program and we don't have testing?
10 How do we have a program and we don't have
11 regulations, you know?

12 So I propose, 443 days later, to ban
13 PBO, one contaminant at a time and to allow
14 patients to grow their own medicine since they
15 have to sign the LLC in order to submerge into a
16 Medical Cannabis Program.

17 I'm able to grow basil. I'm able to
18 grow thyme. I'm able to grow tomatoes. I don't
19 know any other Agency that is requiring someone
20 to sign a limited liability and assuming no
21 responsibility for what you ingest, except for
22 this program.

23 So if we have these regulations or
24 these, this structure that you have in place,
25 allow the patient and the consumer, some kind of

1 safety net if they choose to grow their own
2 medicine.

3 MEMBER CROCKETT: Thank you so much.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
5 Thank you, Ms. Crockett. Ms. Carty, thank you
6 very much for your presentation. As you are
7 aware, the Board is actively soliciting proposals
8 for a testing lab in the city.

9 And I know that you had expressed the
10 Board granting ability for patients to provide
11 for caregivers to grow and dispense medication
12 to, in your case, your minor child. And
13 unfortunately, at this juncture, it is not a
14 regulatory change.

15 It's the law needs to be changed to
16 allow that to occur. So that is something that
17 the law would have to be changed to allow a
18 caregiver, such as yourself, to provide
19 medication to your minor daughter.

20 And so that's something that has to be
21 pursued through the City Council. And it's not a
22 fix our, we, ourselves can do. It has to, the
23 law has to be changed. So --

24 MS. LEE-CARTY: What can we do as a
25 group? As a team as you're introducing -- your

1 the replacement of DOH. What can we do together
2 to ensure? Because the only thing this is a
3 positive thing. I'm not asking for the
4 outlandish.

5 I'm just asking for quality assurance,
6 product safety. That's all that I'm asking for
7 as a parent and as an advocate. So to just throw
8 it off and say it's a law . That's once again,
9 like that, LLC, not wanting to assume.

10 This is about change. Like, I know
11 that the science and the research, we're behind
12 that. And we've advanced into licensing. But
13 let's go back to quality assurance. So what can
14 we do? Or what can I do? Or what can I do to
15 help you? Or what can we do together to ensure
16 quality and assurance?

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But remember
18 that I stated, as I've stated that we are
19 actively soliciting a test lab. Because there's,
20 unfortunately, there are no current, currently
21 any testing labs in D.C.

22 And so, we are in the process of
23 soliciting testing test labs for D.C. So we're
24 hoping that we will be successful in this go
25 around

1 MS. LEE-CARTY: Well, I guess I'll be
2 reaching out to you after this, maybe off grid,
3 to talk more about that. Because that is
4 something of interest.

5 I believe in integrity for the plant.
6 I've always promoted it. And if that is what it
7 takes, I would like to talk off screen about that
8 with your Board, perhaps.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
10 Well, if that's possible. You can always reach
11 out to our General Counsel. And you can always
12 reach out to a General Counsel and information
13 can be shared that way. Well, thank you for
14 that.

15 MS. LEE-CARTY: Thank you, thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right. Any
17 other comments, questions by any other Board
18 members, to anyone? Or any other comments or
19 questions about any of the presenters to the
20 witnesses today? None?

21 I thought that, you know, I always
22 look forward to public hearings and thinking that
23 we'll have 100 witnesses who wants to testify.
24 But I'm glad to hear that it appears that most of
25 the participants are pleased with the ABC Board.

1 That our --

2 Since we've been regulating this
3 industry that it appears that the public is happy
4 with the tenure that the Board has taken. And
5 the Board does look forward to continue working
6 with the industry.

7 To ensure that this is, this program
8 works, and that it works for the residents of the
9 city of the District of Columbia. Do you have a
10 comment you want to make Council Member
11 Alexander?

12 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes, I had a question.
13 I was wondering with regards to the Medical
14 Cannabis Emergency Act for the cultivation
15 center, the two, the two cultivation, one
16 dispensary and one, two testing facilities.

17 I know that LOIs were extended for a
18 month. Are you able to answer that, at this
19 time, why that was an extension made for those
20 LOIs.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I believe the
22 extension was made based on some changes were
23 made. And it was based on the date that the
24 Mayor had signed off on the changes.

25 The City Council had, I believe, it

1 was because of the enactment of the law. And so,
2 to, because I think some changes were made
3 regarding social equity participants, I believe.

4 And I think because, I think, there
5 were some changes made regarding people who had
6 certain criminal convictions, and with a previous
7 law, they couldn't have apply.

8 And so, we had made some changes,
9 making it, allowing those folks to apply. And
10 so, based on the enactment of the new law, it
11 was, it's my understanding, that's why the date
12 was extended.

13 To allow those applicants who were not
14 eligible to apply, given them an opportunity so
15 they can apply. But that was the, that was the
16 extension.

17 And it's my understanding that we have
18 had some robust, that there, there, actually,
19 there are interests for both the dispensaries,
20 both the cultivation centers, and both the
21 testing lab.

22 And so, I'm, I am hoping that the,
23 once we go through the process, that the
24 dispensary for either Ward 1 or Ward 5 will be --
25 well, I'm sorry, Ward 1 or Ward 3, will be

1 issued. And that the two cultivation center
2 licenses will be issued.

3 And I'm hoping that we will finally
4 have a dispensary in D.C. I'm hoping, I'm
5 positive that it will happen this time because we
6 cannot have an industry where there is not an
7 independent testing lab in D.C. So I'm hoping
8 that, finally, we will find that in D.C. once we
9 go through the process.

10 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You're welcome.
12 All right. Any other questions before I bring
13 this hearing to a close? Any other questions or
14 comments by anyone prior to bring closure to this
15 matter? Yes, sir?

16 MR. SALSGIVER: Yes, I would like to
17 add that at some people who smoke cannabis,
18 medically, you know, have not been to a doctor
19 and not been to a psychiatrist or anything. They
20 just know that smoking marijuana eases their
21 PTSD.

22 And for the people to have to go and
23 talk about it with a doctor and government, and
24 all this stuff, just to be able to get medical
25 cannabis is, it brings up the trauma, again.

1 It's just like taking a beating all over again.

2 What we need is to allow people to use
3 cannabis and not have to go through all these
4 loops and all this over regulation. And you know,
5 I read, I skimmed through the 85-page document.

6 And I'm warning you that you know you
7 can over regulate cannabis into oblivion. And
8 what we're really, you really need to look at
9 less, you know, less regulation and more
10 availability.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right.
12 Thank you, very much, Mr. Salsgiver for that
13 presentation today. All right. Thank you. Any
14 further comments by anyone before bringing this
15 matter to closure?

16 MS. LEE-CARTY: I, I, Dawn Lee-Carty.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes?

18 MS. LEE-CARTY: I have one more
19 comment.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Go ahead.

21 MS. LEE-CARTY: I believe that it's
22 considered medical cannabis, then when you're
23 using the word medicine, it should not have any
24 additives, or any microbials, or any arsenic.

25 So the name medical cannabis

1 dispensary should either be removed, especially
2 if the assumption and we don't have these lab
3 testing sites in place yet.

4 I literally in March of 2020 had to
5 call the FDA. Had my biochemist and I wrote an
6 adverse effect report to the FDA, simply because
7 the bottle that my daughter ingested, I was
8 concerned that that whole batch might have been
9 contaminated.

10 Zoey is an epileptic. So she's going
11 to react differently than average human. Anyone
12 with a neurological disorder will react as Zoey
13 did simply because the additive PBO acts as an
14 antagonist to the CB1 and CB2 receptors.

15 The other person that medicates with
16 it might get a nice, slow buzz because it just
17 got that little extra something in it that keep
18 you coming back for more. So we literally had to
19 call, to write and submit a Form 3500 to the FDA
20 to show that there was an adverse effect.

21 Because even though Tacoma Wellness,
22 the place where we purchased the CBD from, and
23 the product being Jackson's Courage, was
24 contacted by Child Protective Services to tell,
25 to let them know that a child ingested something

1 that had ecstasy in it. They continued to carry
2 the product on the shelf.

3 And it was me being a mother, an
4 activist, and a person that cares about the other
5 patients that maybe another, someone else could
6 have consumed that particular batch and had an
7 adverse effect.

8 So for you to say that we can't have
9 this program without testing, it's so sad that
10 this whole cannabis legalization happened in 2014
11 and we're here in 2021, talking about testing.

12 Like, with medicine being in front of
13 cannabis. Nothing with medicine should be
14 tainted with a contaminant. That's just common
15 sense. And it's FDA language. And it should
16 apply. And the sense of urgency should be swift
17 and rapid.

18 And I've heard talks of mobile lab
19 trucks driving around, and picking up product,
20 and testing it. However, I just wanted to
21 educate you on that.

22 Having a mobile lab and having that
23 equipment on the van and amount potholes that we
24 have in Washington D.C., along with just wearing
25 tear will totally throw off the mercury in those

1 machines that's testing for contaminants.

2 So having a still building, it will be
3 more assurance that the testing accuracy is
4 correct. The mislabeling of the products of
5 cannabis is also a big issue in this medical
6 cannabis realm.

7 Because Zoey's bottle that I purchased
8 read 26 percent CBD. But when I went and got it
9 third party tested it read 13 percent CBD. And
10 then, when I requested it from Holistic, it read
11 66 percent.

12 So look at the mislabeling. Like,
13 this is a big bag of everything and we're calling
14 it medical cannabis. Once again, regardless of
15 the laws -- and I hear that we have to go act
16 according to the law.

17 Where do we draw the line with public
18 safety, public consumption, when we talking about
19 medical cannabis? Had it just been recreational,
20 I mean -- but we have people that need cannabis
21 to live.

22 So we have to draw a line somewhere
23 and create our own framework. And I will not
24 stop until we, as a city, understand that this
25 could have happened to you, sir.

1 You could have been urine tested and
2 tested positive for ecstasy. And you're CBD for
3 your arthritis. Like, this is how severe that
4 this is. And it needs to be corrected on the
5 medical aspect of it.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you,
7 again, Ms. Carty. As I stated, the law has
8 always required that we have independent testing
9 labs in D.C.. However, we have not had it. And
10 as everyone has stated, ABRA has been regulating
11 this industry since October of 2020.

12 And we are working to ensure that we
13 have an independent testing lab, not a mobile
14 lab, but an actual building in D.C. that can test
15 the product. And that's what we're waiting for.

16 Because it's independent, we have to
17 hope that there is some entity out there who will
18 be qualified to come to D.C. to test the product.
19 And because as, you know, the product cannot be
20 legally transmitted across State lines. So for
21 the testing to occur, the lab has to be in D.C.
22 for it to occur.

23 And so, we are working on doing that.
24 And I hear your concerns and your voice. And
25 this Board will do whatever it can do to ensure

1 that this is a safe industry for all the medical
2 clients who depend on the products, on the
3 medical products that are produced by the
4 cultivation centers and sold by the dispensaries.

5 But we are working towards
6 establishing the requirements that, at least, we
7 can offer the general public some semblance that
8 the product, the medical products that are being
9 ingested, that they are properly labeled and
10 properly identified.

11 And free of certain, I'm not I'm not
12 going to say all, but -- because I'm not sure
13 what the testing requirements are, what
14 substances need to be tested for. But at least
15 you will be assured that there are specific
16 substances that are being tested to know what is
17 it that that the clientele are ingesting.

18 So again, I thank you for making us
19 aware of what you have experienced over the past
20 several years in D.C. Thank you. All right.
21 Yes, Ms. Alexander, you anything, you have
22 something that you want to say?

23 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes. And I promise
24 this is the last couple of things I have to say.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That's fine.

1 MS. ALEXANDER: But I just wanted to
2 express, I know that it's in the testimony, as
3 well. It is so important, as Mr. Adrian
4 Salsgiver mentioned. He got something at Dupont
5 Circle. It's so important for ABRA to really
6 crack down on these illegal businesses.

7 They need to be sanctioned. They're
8 running rampant. We're compiling a list of these
9 illegal operations. And we want to share them
10 with you. I wanted to put on record the
11 association is having a meeting with Chief Conti
12 on May the 19th.

13 And we would love to have you attend
14 that meeting if you are free. Because I think
15 that ABRA and the Metropolitan Police Department
16 definitely have to work together. We are all for
17 the safety of residents in the District of
18 Columbia.

19 And you know, they're only, their
20 limited, licensed operations where people need to
21 go. And they, you know, it's so rampant that a
22 lot of residents are thinking that all of these
23 locations are legally licensed cannabis
24 locations, medical cannabis locations, and they
25 most certainly are not.

1 So I just wanted to make that point,
2 that you will receive a copy of the testimony.
3 And also, just had a quick question about the
4 medical cards. I know, the Mayor has lifted the
5 emergency that everyone has to be up to date with
6 regards to their medical cannabis card July 1.

7 However, I see a concern with that
8 because I see a influx of just a flood of people
9 waiting until the last minute, myself included,
10 July 1, that that may be a lot of stress on the
11 Department to have all of these people renewing
12 at one time.

13 And the request would be consideration
14 for their cards to go through the at least the
15 end of this year. Because we see that there's
16 just going to be a flood of July 1st. Thousands
17 of people renewing their cards for that day.

18 And I don't, you know, I don't want to
19 overburden the Agency. And I don't want people
20 who have cards to be, you know, waiting for their
21 card. And you know, things not happening in an
22 expedient manner.

23 So it would really make, I guess, more
24 sense efficiently to have cards extended through
25 the end of this year. And it would create like a

1 rolling re-enrollment, so to speak. It wouldn't
2 just have thousands going for that July 1 date.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for
4 bringing that to the attention of the Board,
5 Ms. Alexander. The Board has discussed it. And
6 the Board will alert the dispensaries of whatever
7 proposal that we think is appropriate to address
8 the issue.

9 I do appreciate the fact that it could
10 be overwhelming that July 1. That there are,
11 9,000 are the universe of people who, so -- but
12 the Board is aware of that and the Board will
13 proactively address that issue. So thank you for
14 bringing that forward.

15 MS. ALEXANDER: They project it as
16 7,500 will be removed on July 1, so.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you, very
18 much. The Board, we are aware and we anticipate
19 human nature. And so, we will provide some
20 guidance to the industry of whatever it is that
21 we are, we're proposing for July 1.

22 But we do hope that we're now in April
23 and that people do come and renew their cards.
24 And that the dispensaries alert folks when they
25 come, to let them know that their cards have

1 expired and that they should work towards
2 renewing them and not necessarily wait till July
3 1.

4 But we are, we're, the Board has
5 anticipated that that would be problematic. And
6 we're, we will issue some guidance to the
7 dispensaries of what the --

8 MS. ALEXANDER: Because it's human
9 nature. And also, there's a cost assessed too.
10 So people still have to consider, you know,
11 getting their coins together for that, you know,
12 for that renewal, as well. So that's another
13 thing to consider.

14 And I don't know if you have any pull
15 with the DMV, but could you do something about my
16 driver's license too? I'd appreciate it. I have
17 a lot of tickets.

18 (Laughter)

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Remember, I
20 think when it comes to pull, I believe that you
21 would have a little bit more than I do. Thank
22 you. All right.

23 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, all. I
24 appreciate all of you. Pretty short, always.
25 Nice seeing you, as well.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. It
2 is my understanding that there is, sorry. That
3 there is a Michael Bobo who would like to speak.
4 And Mr. Bobo can you -- if you want, are you
5 planning, do you want to testify or are you just
6 making a comment, sir? Can you please identify
7 yourself on the record?

8 MR. BOBO: Okay, this is Michael Bobo,
9 owner of the National Holistic Healing Center.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. BOBO: And your --

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I'm sorry, are
13 you trying to testify or are you trying to make
14 comment? Which one is it?

15 MR. BOBO: This really, merely a
16 comment. And actually, Yvette actually covered
17 my comments. So it was related to the medical
18 cards and the extension dates regarding those.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right,
20 thank you. Thank you, Mr. Bobo. I will, as I
21 stated before the Agency is aware that this could
22 be problematic. And so, the Agency will issue
23 some direction to the dispensaries as should be,
24 what our process is.

25 However, I do alert and remind you

1 that once you -- all, all your clients who
2 currently come in, to please remind them that
3 their cards have expired and that they should
4 immediately go to our, to renew them, sir.

5 MR. BOBO: That we are doing. And you
6 know, I know all of the dispensaries in D.C. are
7 working towards that same very single period.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. But
9 we will, we are aware after July, we are aware of
10 human nature. And so, we are aware of the July 1
11 date. And we will try to come up with, we will
12 issue some guidance, whatever requires. Do you
13 have something to say Mr. Salsgiver?

14 MR. SALSGIVER: Yes, I would like to
15 -- I want everybody, to tell everybody that you
16 don't get a card. You people keep saying card,
17 card, card. You do not get a card. You get a
18 stupid privilege letter.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I'm not
20 sure, sir. But it's my understanding that ABRA
21 will be issuing cards. So I'm not quite -- I'm
22 not, I, I don't know what it is. But based on my
23 conversation with the Director is that, it's a
24 card that will be issued. I'm not aware off of
25 privilege letter.

1 MR. SALSGIVER: I'm telling you.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Sir, I don't
3 know.

4 MR. SALSGIVER: You don't a card. You
5 get a privilege letter.

6 MEMBER CROCKETT: Mr. Salsgiver, that
7 was an interim process while the program was
8 transferred from the Department of Health to
9 ABRA. Now, the ABRA is issuing cards. We do, in
10 fact, have cards.

11 MR. SALSGIVER: Oh, good.

12 MEMBER CROCKETT: They have ABRA on
13 them and you will be receiving a card, not a
14 privilege letter. That was just an interim
15 measure, sir.

16 MR. SALSGIVER: Okay, well, thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you for
18 that clarification, Ms. Crockett.

19 MR. BOBO: One final, final, final
20 point regarding to that. Is there any, has there
21 been any --

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Bobo, I'm
23 sorry. Because this is being transcribed, so you
24 have to identify yourself each time you speak,
25 sir.

1 MR. BOBO: No problem, Michael Bobo,
2 owner of National Holistic Healing Center. My
3 final, final question/comment was, has there been
4 any movement on --

5 The Mayor initiated, maybe a year or
6 two ago, said the cards would be valid for
7 approximately two years. And then, has there
8 been any movement regarding that two year
9 deadline for cards?

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We have not
11 made -- the Board has been in discussion
12 regarding whether or not we should issue a two
13 year card. And so, we are in discussions and a
14 decision will be made in due course whether or
15 not a two year card will be issued.

16 But the Board is aware and the Board
17 has been, has discussed it. And at the
18 appropriate time, a decision will be will be made
19 whether or not we're going to have a two year
20 card.

21 MR. BOBO: Okay. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Thank you. I
23 appreciate that you're keeping the, the industry
24 has kept the Board on its toes, the Board and the
25 Agency on its toes. But I'm proud to say that

1 the Agency under the direction of Mr. Moosally
2 has anticipated many of the questions.

3 And so, the Board is able to respond,
4 in due course, to the concerns that you have.
5 And I assure you that we are aware and we're
6 trying to address those issues proactively. So
7 there'll be no surprises.

8 You'll know in due course. Industry
9 will know in due course what the position is of
10 the Agency, and the City, and the Mayor. Okay,
11 thank you. Any other questions or concerns
12 before bring this matter to closure?

13 All right, well, hearing none. The
14 Board, again, thanks all those were taken the
15 time to testify at today's hearing. Please know
16 that this is not your last opportunity to share
17 your thoughts with the Board.

18 Written comments can be submitted to
19 the Board by emailing abra.legal@dc.gov to the
20 attention of our General Counsel, Ms. Martha
21 Jenkins.

22 And you have, the record will remain
23 open until 4:00 p.m. on May 7th, 2021. So 4:00
24 p.m. on May 7th, 2021, you'll have an opportunity
25 to submit written comments regarding your

1 position on the Emergency and Proposed
2 Rulemaking.

3 So again, I want to thank everyone for
4 their participation today. The Board appreciates
5 your input and we will ensure that your comments
6 are taken in consideration once these rules are
7 finalized.

8 Thank you very much for your attention
9 and presentations today. All right. Okay. So
10 I'm going to thank you. I'm now going to bring
11 our session and our day to an end.

12 As Chairperson of the Alcoholic
13 Beverage Control Board for the District of
14 Columbia, in accordance with Title 3, Chapter
15 405, Office of Open Government, I move that ABC
16 Board call a closed to the meeting on April 29th,
17 2021.

18 For the purpose of discussing and
19 hearing reports concerning ongoing or planned
20 investigations of alleged criminal or civil
21 misconduct or violations of law or regulations
22 and seeking legal advice from our legal counsel
23 and the Board's investigative agenda, legal
24 agenda, and licensing agenda for April 29th,
25 2021, as published in the D.C. Register on April

1 23rd, 2021. Is here a second?

2 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short has
4 seconded the motion. I will take a roll call
5 vote on the motion that was properly seconded by
6 Mr. Short.

7 (Roll call)

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Short?

9 MEMBER SHORT: Mr. Short, I agree.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Cato?

11 MEMBER CATO: Bobby Cato, I agree.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Crockett?

13 MEMBER CROCKETT: Rafi Crockett, I
14 agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Hansen?

16 MEMBER HANSEN: Jeni Hansen, I agree.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Grandis?

18 MEMBER GRANDIS: Edward Grandis, I
19 agree.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And Mr.
21 Anderson, I, agree. As it appears that the
22 motion has passed, I hereby give notice that the
23 ABC Board will hold this aforementioned closed
24 meeting.

25 Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act

1 notice will also be posted on the ABC Board
2 hearing room bulletin board, placed on the
3 electronic calendar, ABRA's website, and
4 published in the D.C. Register in as timely a
5 manner as practical.

6 We are now adjourned for the day. I
7 want to thank the public. I want to thank the
8 Board for their participation today.

9 I now ask that the Board return to
10 Executive Session for further discussions. Have
11 a great day and thank you very much. All right.
12 Bye bye.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 went off the record at 2:52 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Medical Marijuana
Proposed Rulemaking

Before: DCABRA

Date: 04-28-21

Place: teleconference

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