

Discussion points for the bill “Medical Cannabis Policy for Administration During School Hours and Events.” SB 604 & HB 617

- 1) Why would students need medical cannabis during the day? - While some students are able to dose their cannabis outside of school hours, many need cannabis in closer intervals or use medical cannabis as a rescue medication for seizure activity, asthma, etc.
- 2) Federal law prohibits medical cannabis in schools and facilities as they receive federal funding - This is a common concern but so far 12 states have laws in place allowing medical cannabis on school grounds. Further, there are many private facilities in Maryland that cannot legally dispense based on our laws despite not receiving federal funding. The federal Rohrabacher-Farr amendment protects the states when creating laws to improve access to medical cannabis.
- 3) Drug Free School Zones - while the federal laws prohibit marijuana on school grounds, 12 states have laws in place to allow medical cannabis to be in schools. Some also allow school nurses to store and dispense medical cannabis as other medications are managed. Further, the Rohrabacher-Farr amendment protects the states when making laws that allow medical cannabis on school grounds.
- 4) Bus? Why would a student need medical cannabis on a bus? In the event of a seizure, a student may need to be given medical cannabis on the way to or from school. MSDE currently has a similar policy for Epi-pens which allows each county to develop policies. For example, Epi-pens may be on buses for students who may require immediate treatment and allows school nurses to train the bus driver or aide to medicate the student.
- 5) School Sponsored Activities - in order for students to have full educational access, they must be allowed to have their medical cannabis for all school sponsored activities and settings.
- 6) Why do we need to update the caregiver law? A variety of reasons:
 - a) Minors - Allow parents to add non-parent/guardian caregivers for their child. Right now the law only allows for a parent or guardian to be a caregiver (the person who can purchase and dispense for a minor). Adding additional registered caregivers will allow the parent respite as well as the ability to seek medical attention for him/herself. We are seeking to change the law to 4 caregivers per patient and allowing the parent to designate other caregivers for their certified child.
 - b) 4 Caregivers - Increasing the number of caregivers for all patients allows for increased coverage for patients who may have to have a greater number of people help with access.

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