

House Finance

03/27/2023 01:30 PM

HB23-1020 -

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Yadira Silva</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Hi, I suffered the unwillingness of established industry to partner with me even though I am Social Equity transporter and delivery business. I am going to close my business because we don't have the equitable opportunity to succeed in the Cannabis industry.</p> <p>With marijuana courses being offered in several universities and plenty of free online guides available, people are developing better knowledge about cannabis. Long gone are the days of buying weed in parking lots. Shoppers now have more sophisticated knowledge about cannabis, looking for potent, innovative products. global cannabis sales for 2022 is predicted to break \$35 billion—which is a 22% increase compared to 2021 sales. In fact, cannabis has grown in popularity so much that Americans purchased more marijuana than Starbucks Coffee last year.</p> <p>So, allow Social Equity transporter and Delivery companies the purchase of wholesale marijuana and marijuana products from a MIP or a cultivation facility to handling retail sales transactions only through permissible online portals. Thanks.</p>
<p>Damon Washington</p> <p>For The Color of Cannabis</p>	<p>Thank you for the chance to share today. I'm Damon Washington, a social equity applicant in the cannabis industry, urging support for House Bill 1020 as amended. As a college graduate and business owner, I've planned a \$50,000 investment, but can't participate fully due to limited partnerships. A major barrier is the requirement to contract with established dispensaries, who have no incentive to partner with us.</p> <p>Many social equity applicants are stuck, unable to operate, and creating an unequal playing field. House Bill 1020, as amended, allows us to operate delivery businesses independently, without relying on established dispensaries. This levels the playing field and provides an entry point for those who've been arrested, jailed, and paid court fees.</p>

	<p>This bill offers more fair competition, resulting in collaborative partnerships between social equity businesses and the established industry. Passing it enables us to support our families and fund community events in underprivileged areas, giving back and offering opportunities for others to succeed.</p> <p>The cannabis industry can create economic opportunities for underprivileged communities, but barriers to entry must be removed. House Bill 1020 as amended offers a path benefiting everyone. I urge you to vote yes on the amended bill and protect the Independent Delivery provision. This supports entrepreneurs and promotes equity in the cannabis industry. Thank you for your dedication to a more just and equitable society.</p>
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Honorable Representatives Naquetta Ricks, and Business Affairs & Labor Committee members:

My name is Nicole Sabilia and I am testifying today on behalf of Ayan Enterprises d/b/a Cirrus Social Club, Social Equity License #2022-BFN-0014455

Regarding House Bill 23-1020, the social equity license holder, the team, and I are excited about this proposed amendment.

We believe that the possibilities proposed here for improving equity in Colorado's cannabis industry will improve state commerce and provide innovative space for specialization as the market matures.

**I respectfully request that the General Assembly considers including explicit language in the update, allowing delivery license holders to deliver to hotels other non-private residences, and cannabis consumption lounges.**

I believe that this change is imperative for several reasons:

- Transport of safe, regulated products to be delivered to consumers stimulates commerce beyond what's nearby Cirrus and other cannabis hospitality spaces,
- Encouraging responsible consumption means discouraging driving under the influence of any substance. Thus, promoting more ubiquitous access to direct-to-consumer cannabis delivery promotes safety.
- Delivery services are equipped to handle and transport these products safely with robust security and compliance measures down pat.

If passed, this bill would benefit all license holders and stakeholders in the cannabis industry. Public safety is promoted in neighborhoods and communities where cannabis delivery thrives.

As humans, neighbors, and active members of our community, we understand there might be opposition. However, an industry promoting safe consumption and transport of regulated products, working to heal systemic disadvantages day by day, is one where everybody can win.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Nicole Sabilia and Team Cirrus Social Club**