

Kevin Gallagher
Executive Director
Colorado Cannabis Manufacturers Association

April 26, 2019

House Finance Committee
200 E. Colfax Ave.,
Denver, CO 80203

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Kevin Gallagher. I am the Executive Director of the Colorado Cannabis Manufacturers Association, the state's first manufacturing-focused stakeholder industry group within the cannabis industry. We support SB19-224 to continue the responsible regulation of the marijuana industry.

First and foremost, we want to thank the bill sponsors for their tireless efforts on the sunset bill, and their willingness to openly collaborate with stakeholders during this process. Our main goal going into session was to protect the medical industry from equivalencies as it pertains to purchasing limits. We have completed negotiations with Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) surrounding this issue and passed an amendment on the Senate floor. We hope to keep these purchasing limits intact as the bill moves forward within the House.

Next, we have passed various amendments in the Senate that promote operational efficiencies for manufacturing businesses which include but are not limited to statutorily aligning medical and retail labeling requirements, eliminating the five-license cap for medical production batches and preventing redundant testing during the production process. Such changes were supported both by industry and MED. We ask that these changes remain in bill as well.

Lastly, we urge the committee to be mindful of any attempts made by other stakeholders to prevent the growth, and overall success, of small business. Please note that our membership is entirely made of smaller businesses who drive craft quality, innovation and the soul of the cannabis industry. At the same time, these businesses are very sensitive to anticompetition, anti-free market and other protectionist means that prohibit mom and pop businesses from being legitimate participants in this ever-growing market. If or when new amendments are proposed, we ask that you ask the proponents of such concepts, "How will this impact small business?" and "How will this enable small business to compete in the market?".

We ask for a "yes" vote on SB19-224.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gallagher
Executive Director
Colorado Cannabis Manufacturers Association