



OFFICE OF
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& Civic Life**
CANNABIS PROGRAM

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- “Low or Average Median Income” was proven ineffective as it does not accurately reflect the racial disparity in wealth. One study found that White households in the middle-income bracket own nearly eight times as much wealth as middle-income Blacks and ten times as much wealth as middle-income Latino/a/x. This wealth gap is visible across the entire income spectrum between these groups.
- And, in 2018, the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission’s Racial Disparity study found clear evidence that minority participants were disadvantaged in the State’s medical cannabis industry. This led to the development of emergency regulations to include race-conscious measures to address the needs of minority applicants.

States have a compelling interest in ensuring that its resources and funding are not distributed in a manner that perpetuates the effects of discrimination, a risk presented by continuing to use ineffective race neutral language.

Therefore, HB 3112 was intentionally crafted to establish a cannabis equity program that meaningfully addresses the historical harms to Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x communities while remaining constitutionally sound.

As we support the passage of HB 3112, the City of Portland Cannabis Program team remains available for any follow-up questions regarding my testimony.

Sincerely,

Dasheeda Dawson
Cannabis Program Supervisor
Office of Community & Civic Life
City of Portland



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