Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

SB 1008 UNFAVORABLE
Alcohol and Cannabis - Cannabinoid Beverages Off-Premises Sales Permit - Establishment

MDDCSAM opposes SB1008 because it expands the sale of cannabinoid beverages without many of the existing public health safeguards.

SB1008 allows sales of cannabinoid beverages by any of over 1500 licensed alcohol retailers in the state (which is more than the 111 licensed cannabis dispensaries). This dramatic increase in sales outlets will compromise enforcement capacity.

Cannabis dispensaries are age-gated (i.e., no one under age 21 may enter), whereas alcohol retail establishments are not, so the bill increases exposure to cannabinoid products to those under 21 years of age.

Unlike the case with licensed cannabis dispensaries, employees of licensed alcohol retailers have no required training on the safe use of cannabinoid products (for example, the need for warnings about cannabis use in pregnancy, and many other issues). Many consumers rely on advice at the point of sale.

SB1008 transfers enforcement authority from the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) to the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC). Unlike the MCA's current seed-to-sale system, the ATCC does not track products to their point of sale, so the regulatory regimen over cannabinoid beverages will be limited.

The result will be markedly degraded public health safeguards, likely resulting in public health harms. For these reasons, MDDCSAM opposes SB1008.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of MDDCSAM,

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