

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

At its regularly scheduled, properly noticed, meeting on March 10, 2026, and at the recommendation of its Alcoholic Beverage & Cannabis (ABC) Committee, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 7-0-0 to file the following request.

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B writes to express its strong support for B26-0522, the “Medical Cannabis Process Improvement Amendment Act of 2025,” and to urge the Committee of the Whole to provide it with timely consideration by holding a hearing and advancing the bill before the end of Council Period 26.

ANC 6B supports well-regulated medical cannabis and the legitimate small businesses in this industry. We understand and welcome the importance of the legalization process. We also affirm our support for DC-based, Black-owned businesses. In our role as neighborhood representatives, we have worked collaboratively and congenially with medical cannabis operators. We are committed to ensuring that the regulatory environment surrounding medical cannabis is transparent, predictable, and fair – as far as we contribute to the process.

Today we write to tell you that *the existing rules are creating unnecessary friction* around what should otherwise be a smooth license review process. District law has left gaps and vague standards that undermine confidence in the legalization process and have increased conflict at the neighborhood level. This is true even when all parties seek to act in good faith.

As such, ANC 6B supports B26-0522 as written, and we particularly want to call out the following elements:

- **Codify the Child Development Center Definition:** We are genuinely frustrated at the way current regulations treat organizations serving young children, and B26-0522 offers relief. By proposing a standard that does not discriminate between the many different child-serving institutions, this bill levels the playing field before a license case even gets to the ANC. We do not want business owners to make an investment, sign a lease and get all the way to ANC review before it becomes clear the ABCA review process failed to identify that the new cannabis shop is right next to a daycare center. We have had two such cases in the past year. This is frustrating for the neighborhood and the business owners alike. It is also easily preventable by incorporating the child development center definition into code, as B26-0522 would do.
- **Grant ANC Standing for Delivery Businesses:** ANC 6B also supports the provision in B26-0522 that would give ANCs standing with regards to the issuance, renewal, or transfer of an internet retailer license. According to their locations on Google Maps, many of these businesses are currently operating all over 6B, out of homes. Delivery

businesses have implications for traffic, parking, and public order. ANC input is warranted.

ANC 6B respectfully requests that the Committee of the Whole hold a hearing on the “Medical Cannabis Process Improvement Amendment Act of 2025” during the first half of 2026 and then move the bill forward promptly thereafter. Timely action will provide much-needed clarity for business owners, ANCs, and families across the District of Columbia as we continue to transition from an era of unlicensed cannabis shops to a stable, community-oriented medical cannabis program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to a regulatory framework that balances cannabis access, protection of children, neighborhood quality of life, and fair treatment of law-abiding businesses. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Pastore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samuel Pastore
Chair, ANC 6B
Commissioner 6B05