

Good morning Chair Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Jason Wahl, the Director of the Division of Medical Marijuana within the Department of Health. I am here to support and provide information on Senate Bill 2210 related to a change on the number of plants a manufacturing facility may possess under the Medical Marijuana chapter of state law.

Senate Bill 2210 would eliminate the 1,000 plant limit for a manufacturing facility. The bill would allow a manufacturing facility to grow an amount sufficient to meet the qualifying patient demand. For every 500 plants in excess of 1,000, a manufacturing facility would pay an additional certification fee of \$10,000. The Department of Health is in favor of these changes.

There are a number of reasons why the changes in Senate Bill 2210 will be beneficial for the Medical Marijuana Program. Product shortages have impacted Medical Marijuana Programs in other states. Risks associated with potential marijuana product shortages can be reduced by allowing manufacturing facilities to grow to meet demand. Manufacturing facilities would have the ability to increase product types, flexibility to grow a variety of strains, and the ability to adapt to changes in patient populations and demands. With the current plant limit, one potential lost harvest could severely impact product availability.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.