

Good morning Chair Luick and members of the Agriculture Committee. My name is Jason Wahl, the Director of the Division of Medical Marijuana within the Department of Health. I am here to support, with the exception of one portion, and provide information on Senate Bill 2210 related to an increase of the maximum number of plants a manufacturing facility may possess under the Medical Marijuana chapter of state law.

Senate Bill 2210 would allow a manufacturing facility that had reached 1,000 marijuana plants before January 16, 2019 to possess up to an additional 2,000 plants. While the Department of Health is in favor of increasing the plant limit of a manufacturing facility, we would oppose the limitation regarding the January 16, 2019 date in order to be eligible to possess 3,000 plants in a facility. All registered manufacturing facilities should be eligible to have the same maximum number of plants.

There are a number of reasons why increasing the plant limit 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 with the increased plant limit. Also, an increased plant limit will provide manufacturing facilities 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.