



February 4, 2022

The Honorable Mike Regan  
Chairman  
PA Senate Law and Justice Committee  
172 Main Capitol Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3031

The Honorable James Brewster  
Democratic Chairman  
PA Senate Law and Justice Committee  
458 Main Capitol Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3045

**Re: Address medical marijuana workplace safety issues before considering  
legalizing recreational use**

Dear Chairmen:

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry regarding proposals to legalize recreational marijuana, the subject of a Senate Law and Justice Committee hearing next week.

This policy discussion is of significant consequence and lawmakers are sure to evaluate this concept from many perspectives including public safety and health, economic implications and impact on children. We urge the committee to also carefully consider the impact on employers and the workplace, including potentially exacerbating the current labor shortage crisis and how employers are expected to manage recreational marijuana use among their workforce.

Unfortunately, we are already experiencing the consequences of lawmakers failing to fully consider the employer perspective as it relates to marijuana policy.

Several years now following legalization of marijuana for medical purposes, employers report significant confusion with the law and a lack of clarity that is complicating their ability to maintain a safe work environment, particularly in safety-sensitive industries. S.B. 749, legislation to address ambiguity in the law, has been introduced; and while the Senate Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing this past September, the bill remains pending in committee.

We have strong concerns with lawmakers considering legalization of recreational marijuana, and triggering a likely significant expansion of marijuana use in Pennsylvania, at least until workplace safety issues with the medical program are addressed. Employers are looking to the legislature for help ensuring a safe workplace for their employees and the public.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gene Barr', written in a cursive style.

Gene Barr  
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Law and Justice Committee