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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

February 25, 2014

The Honorable Brian E. Frosh
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland State Senate, 2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 923 - Medical Marijuana - Natalie M. LaPrade
Medical Marijuana Commission**

Dear Chairman Frosh:

Last year, the Governor signed House Bill 1101 (2013), creating a medical marijuana program which would allow academic medical centers to help Marylanders get access to treatment. This legislation also established a state Medical Marijuana Commission.

In order to be successful, the State should be open to reasonable ideas to expand our current approach in a responsible and safe manner. This will allow us to consider the best and most effective way to get Marylanders access to this doctor-proscribed treatment.

Senate Bill 923 (cross filed as House Bill 881), along with House Bill 1321, addresses many of the issues we've identified since last year, and will ensure that Maryland has a responsible, safe, and functioning medical marijuana program. The best way to do this is to ensure that medical marijuana continues to be a tool that our physicians – within the confines of the doctor-patient relationship – can use to take care of our citizens.

I encourage this committee, along with its counterpart in the House of Delegates, to work together to create an effective and safe medical marijuana system that protects patients, physicians, and all of our stakeholders.

Chairman Frosh
February 25, 2014
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Senate Bill 923 is an important step in this process. And as such, I request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AGB Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first part being a stylized "AGB" and the last part being "Brown".

Anthony G. Brown

AGB/rc

CC: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senator Jamie B. Raskin
Delegate Dan K. Morhaim
Delegate Cheryl D. Glenn