

House Corporations Committee
Room 101
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Chair Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

My name is Lindsey L. Ramirez. As a cybersecurity analyst, former Director of the Rhode Island Women's Business Center, and a proud Pawtucket resident - I write today in strong support of House Bill #5829.

Imagine a revitalized Rhode Island where investments from the cannabis industry are used to rebuild and strengthen communities across our state - not just benefit wealthy, out-of-state operators. House Bill #5829 strengthens the Rhode Island Cannabis Act by closing regulatory loopholes and protecting the integrity of social equity licenses. It ensures that tax revenue from cannabis sales supports local communities - especially those disproportionately impacted by outdated drug policies.

This legislation proposes redirecting cannabis tax revenue into critical community priorities; Education, affordable housing, and healthcare - areas essential to building a just and thriving Rhode Island. Research consistently shows that community-centered investments like these lead to improved economic outcomes, greater equity, and stronger local economies.¹

As you consider this bill, you have the opportunity to contribute in transforming historical harm into lasting economic opportunity. Supporting House Bill #5829 demonstrates a commitment to Rhode Island's most valuable resource: its people.

Thank you for your time and continued service.

¹ Marijuana Policy Project. "Adult-Use Cannabis Legalization States Surpass \$20 Billion in Tax Revenue." May 8, 2024.
<https://norml.org/news/2024/05/16/analysis-adult-use-cannabis-markets-generated-over-20-billion-in-state-tax-revenue/>

