

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: IRRC
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2022 2:18 PM
To: Michelle Elliott; Scott Schalles; Fiona Cormack
Cc: Stephen Hoffman; Madison Brame
Subject: FW: comments on final regulations

Comment on #3290.

Kathy Cooper
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street Tower
14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-783-5417

From: Ashley Allizzo <aallizzo@EthosCannabis.com>
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2022 1:10 PM
To: IRRC <irrc@irrc.state.pa.us>
Subject: comments on final regulations

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express how much I have enjoyed working as a medical professional in the cannabis industry since transitioning over from a hospital setting early in 2022. The patient interactions I have had have required more clinical and critical thinking than a lot of other roles in my 10 year career as a pharmacist, as well as a more direct connection with patients. The work life balance in terms of feeling at ease when I am at home, not replaying certain work related scenarios in my head, has also been hugely beneficial to my mental health.

Hearing that what I love about this job may be in jeopardy is very concerning, as pharmacists should be a valued asset in this industry.

Not requiring dispensaries to have more than a 1:1 ratio of pharmacist to dispensary contradicts why pharmacists were included in the PA Medical Marijuana program to begin with. Requiring only one pharmacist will lead to missed restrictions when reviewing certifications and decreased time for thorough patient consultations, both of which will result in negative patient outcomes. It also will create an unnecessarily stressed and overworked environment for pharmacists. Many pharmacists are already leaving positions that are causing undue stress due to short handed and over worked environments. If you search job listings in Pennsylvania, every major retail chain is offering large sign on bonuses, relocation bonuses, and high salaries due to more and more pharmacists unwilling to work in short staffed conditions that ultimately lead to decreased patient safety.

On a related note, I think it would be wise to continue to allow pharmacists to work remotely. While the common belief may be it takes away from one being available to speak to patients in the dispensary, I actually feel it is the opposite. Many dispensaries are utilizing their in person pharmacists as reception staff, leaving them virtually unavailable to give their full attention and care to patients who may walk in requiring it. If at home, pharmacists would easily be able to utilize remote video/call tools to easily perform telehealth appointments when needed and on short notice, without the distractions that occur in the dispensary. The ability to work remotely also provides a unique opportunity to pharmacists that gives this industry a competitive edge over other career paths. However I do

not agree with what some companies have done, having pharmacists remotely cover 2-3 dispensaries at a time, which is negligent in terms of patient care.

Only requiring one pharmacist per dispensary and not allowing remote work is also unrealistic in times of vacation, sickness, and other life events.

Thank you for your time and considering my thoughts as well as my colleagues on these very important matters.

Ashley Allizzo, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP



Ashley Allizzo (*She/Her*)
Pharmacist
ETHOS CANNABIS
807 Locust St, Philadelphia, PA 19107
aallizzo@ethoscannabis.com
EthosCannabis.com