Dear IRRC Board,

Thank you for allowing me to submit a comment.

My name is Canyon Hopkins and I am a medical professional within the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program. The following comments are my own and not reflective of my employer.

I am writing to comment on Statue 1161a.25.(b) which states the physician, pharmacist, physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner at medical marijuana dispensaries "may **rotate** coverage of the facilities, provided that a physician or pharmacist is always [present] available, either in person or by **synchronous interaction**, at one of the facilities."

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these regulations were provided in order for dispensaries to remain open and to provide patients uninterrupted access to their medications. However, cannabis companies have pushed the boundaries of what these regulations intended and have instead used it as an excuse to have medical professionals cover multiple, high-volume locations at a time. While this is great for a company to increase its profit margin, the abuse of this regulation has the consequence of removing the patient-medical professional relationship that is vital to positive outcomes for patient's continued therapy.

At my location, we consistently see 400+ patients most days of the week. Sister stores in the immediate area see similar numbers as well. In one day of covering for just two locations a medical professional could see over 800 patients, roughly 80 an hour. With this type of volume, it is impossible to provide the intense counseling, monitoring, and follow-up that is required for the many complex patients and disease states we see on a daily basis. I fear that adverse reactions and poor outcomes will result from the loss of the 1:1 ratio of medical professionals to dispensaries when this regulation is abused.

While allowing flexibility for emergencies is vital, it should not be interpreted in such a way as to lose the valuable patient-medical professional relationship.

Sincerely,

Canyon Hopkins, PharmD