



Your support of HB2924 better known as “The Omnibus Bill” is extremely important to social equity applicants.

The Omnibus bill must be passed before new dispensary licenses are awarded. The Omnibus Bill establishes a lottery in the event of a tie. Many believe that there will be a handful of scenarios in which two dispensary applicants tie for the same region. Without a tie breaker process in place there would be no legal recourse for how to handle a tie. The Omnibus bill contains the tie-breaker process, and therefore must be passed before any licenses are awarded.

We understand that the BC has reached an impasse regarding another clause in the bill which would allow dispensaries to **relocate to a new location**. There is a feeling that allowing established dispensaries to relocate would put social equity applicants at a disadvantage. In fact, a few days ago GTI’s lawyer Dina Rollman reached out to us to point out this very fact. Allowing dispensaries to move would disadvantage social equity applicants. Whenever we take in information, especially unsolicited information, we try to understand the motives of the messenger. Is GTI giving us this information because they have the best interests of social equity applicants in mind? It’s a widely held understanding that publicly traded companies are structured to have the best interests of their shareholders in mind.

Maybe you’ve heard through lobbyists that relocating dispensaries would be bad for social equity applicants? Maybe you’ve heard directly through GTI, like we did? One way or another word has spread and the Black Caucus has picked up on that information. It has caused many of you to oppose the Omnibus Bill. If that continues to be the case, the bill dies. The result is that social equity licenses are not awarded until 2021, and cannabis businesses continue their stranglehold on the industry for an additional six months.

In six months, at approximately \$35,000,000 a month in retail revenue (IDFPR numbers) the established cannabis industry will make \$210,000,000 in competition free revenue. Who benefits more from this bill dying, social equity applicants, or established cannabis business? If the Omnibus bill dies, the SEAs will not be awarded licenses until 2021 at the earliest. The only entities who benefit from further delays are the MSOs, and they benefit to the tune of one quarter of a billion dollars.

We talk to these applicants every day. They are our members. We are them. This does not help us. Our people, the minority people, have invested EVERYTHING for a chance at this. We cannot afford to wait on the sidelines any longer. We ask that you reconsider your position and see the situation for what it is. A red herring. We need to have the licenses awarded as soon as possible. The relocation clause of this bill does not hurt us. Waiting hurts us.

We the people, your constituents, benefit from your support of HB2924.