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## **Licensed business owners urge lawmakers to endorse a single system that supports safety, quality-control and competition for entire cannabis marketplace**

*Washington CannaBusiness Association and members testify in support of Cannabis Patient Protection Act*

OLYMPIA – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) and legal cannabis business owners testified in support of the Cannabis Patient Protection Act in a public hearing hosted by the House Health Care and Wellness Committee. The legislation would create a single system for the entire cannabis marketplace, ensuring safe, quality-controlled products to benefit all consumers in Washington. The Senate approved the Cannabis Patient Protection Act in a 36-11 bipartisan vote on February 13.

“Washington residents called for a new approach to cannabis policy when they approved I-502 and we are working hard to deliver a regulated marketplace that is safe for consumers and enables licensed businesses to compete,” said Vicki Christophersen, executive director of the Washington CannaBusiness Association. “Our members are encouraged by the overwhelming bipartisan support voiced by the Senate in approving the Cannabis Patient Protection Act, but we know we have more work to do in the House. We thank all the state representatives for their hard work and look forward to advancing this important legislation.”

Washington CannaBusiness Association members who testified today include:

- John Branch – Lowe, Graham and Jones
- Michelle B. Grogan – Green America
- Ian Eisenberg – Uncle Ike’s
- Brad Douglass – The Werc Shop
- Sarah Blankenship – RightPatch

A complete list of Washington CannaBusiness Association members can be found [online](#).

Sarah Blankenship, an I-502 license holder who owns RightPatch, a transdermal delivery system for cannabis therapies that help bring relief from pain and nausea, testified that “the promising nature of the cannabis industry isn’t just about business and safety, but about innovation that will bring relief to legitimate patients, where in the unregulated environment, we haven’t even begun to scratch the surface of the opportunity to help people.”

Brad Douglass, scientific director of the Werc Shop, a botanical quality control and research laboratory licensed by Washington State, testified that after “five years of cannabis testing, we have learned a few things. First, medical cannabis strains are often misidentified and mislabeled. For example, products offered as being *high* in CBD are commonly found to have *low* levels of CBD. Second, we found that roughly 20 percent of the *medical* products tested by our laboratory did not meet the basic microbiological standards established by I-502 for *non-medical* cannabis.”

Michelle Grogan, COO of Green America, a Tier 3 producer/processor, testified that “until there is a single marketplace that is accountable to consumers and enforceable by law, the legal cannabis industry in Washington will be unfairly disadvantaged by following the rules, while unregulated players thrive in an environment with no requirements for oversight.”

### **About Washington CannaBusiness Association**

Washington CannaBusiness Association solely represents Washington’s licensed and regulated cannabis businesses and provides its members with general support and representation before regulatory agencies and the legislature. As an association of cannabis producers, processors and retailers who have gathered to promote the private cannabis industry created by Initiative 502 and our member companies, our mission is to advocate on behalf of our member companies in the legislative, regulatory, legal and public policy arenas.

Learn more about Washington CannaBusiness Association by visiting our website at <http://www.wacannabusiness.org>

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