

House Business Affairs & Labor

04/16/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1331 Marijuana Special Event & Hotel Delivery

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Marpessa Allen For Honey Kush Company</p>	<p>Good afternoon Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Marpessa Allen and I am a hospitality business owner based here in Denver, Colorado. I'm testifying today in strong support of HB25-1331 because this bill represents major progress for equity, access, and innovation in our state's cannabis industry.</p> <p>Through my work, I have the unique opportunity to plan culturally enriching travel experiences for tourists coming to Denver. A significant number of the visitors I serve are seeking cannabis-related events and experiences, yet current limitations have made it difficult to fully meet that demand in a safe, legal, and organized way.</p> <p>HB25-1331 would allow me to expand my services and scale my business by working directly with licensed cannabis retailers to provide event-based and hotel delivery experiences. It creates a pathway for non-licensed entities like mine to partner with equity licensees at special events and offer tourists access to quality cannabis in a secure, controlled environment. That's not just good for business it's also good for the Colorado tourism.</p> <p>This legislation acknowledges the reality of cannabis tourism and provides a framework that prioritizes public safety, promotes entrepreneurship, and ensures equity licensees aren't left behind as the industry evolves. The hotel registry, special event permits, and delivery components together offer a smart, inclusive approach to cannabis access.</p> <p>HB25-1331 is exactly the kind of progress Colorado need where innovation meets equity, and our laws reflect the growing demand for responsible cannabis experiences.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote yes on HB25-1331.</p>
<p>Alisha Gallegos For</p>	<p>My name is Alisha Gallegos, and my business is Canna CabanaBus, located in Denver. I am a social equity licensed cannabis business owner. I have been a cannabis</p>

themselves	<p>business entrepreneur since 2023. I employ 5 people. I am "For" and support HB-25-1331.</p> <p>As a social equity licensee, I would not have been able to get my business off the ground without the resources that offer support to lowering the barriers to entry into the cannabis industry and to build a successful business. Social Equity operators still need the opportunity and support to conduct business, I feel that this bill would provide an opening where none exists to support Social Equity businesses. Also, Colorado and Denver are promoting a social equity program but need to provide resources to bring awareness to Social Equity and the Businesses attached to the program.</p> <p>I am the Owner of Canna CabanaBus, a Legal Mobile hospitality consumption bus.. In addition to being legally licensed, I am 1 of 4 Mobile hospitality businesses licensed in the whole state, which makes us a unique niche. I am a Denver Native and a Thornton resident. I am also a Hispanic, Female trying to create equity in the cannabis space. I am currently operational and licensed through the Colorado State Marijuana Enforcement Division and the city of county of Denver.</p> <p>I think this would be beneficial to Colorado for a variety of reasons. Thousands of people travel weekly to and from Denver and the surrounding areas, with up to 25% being cannabis consumers. Despite Amendment 64 of the Colorado Constitution allowing the possession and transportation of cannabis, there is currently no legal pathway for consumption in transit. This results in increased instances of public consumption, impaired driving, and legal uncertainty. While alcohol consumers can legally enjoy party buses and limousines, no equivalent service exists for cannabis, leaving a significant gap in public safety measures</p> <p>Why Mobile Cannabis Hospitality? ✓ Public Safety Enhancement: Provides a private, regulated space for consumption, reducing illegal public use and discouraging impaired driving. ✓ Legal and Constitutional Compliance: Aligns with Amendment 64, which protects adults' rights to transport cannabis while allowing local governments to regulate consumption policies. ✓ Harm Reduction Strategy: Encourages safe, legal transportation, reducing law enforcement burdens and public health risks. ✓ Economic and Tourism Benefits: Supports a growing industry while ensuring responsible adult use similar to existing alcohol-related services.</p> <p>Please contact me with any further questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Alisha Gallegos</p>
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April 16, 2025

Re HB25-1331, Concerning Measures That Expand The Venues Wherein Marijuana May Be Sold By A License Holder

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor,

One Chance to Grow Up is a non-profit, non-partisan organization formed in 2013. Our mission is to protect kids with robust regulations from the harms of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

On behalf of our Advisory Council and thousands of our members, respectfully, we are in opposition to HB25-1331.

This bill expands marijuana delivery from private residences to hotels and time shares that service travelers. We believe any expansion of marijuana delivery puts Colorado kids at risk.

Compliance with underage sales continues to be a problem with marijuana delivery and has in fact increased since the state first began surveying students about delivery in 2021. Between 2021 and 2023, the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey showed a **29% increase** in the percentage of high school students reporting that they obtained their marijuana through delivery services. In 2023, 2.2% of high school students who reported past 30 day marijuana use got their marijuana through delivery, compared to 1.7% in 2021.

Based on Colorado high school enrollment in 2023, we can estimate that hundreds and hundreds of teens are delivered marijuana. This is just the number of individuals, not the number of interactions.

And while the hotel has the opportunity to opt-in to delivery, there are no requirements that the person receiving the product be a guest at the hotel. We worry this will set up a situation where there are specific locations where youth can go and receive marijuana deliveries with little oversight.

We also oppose this bill because of the change in policy that will allow the State Licensing Authority to issue hospitality special event permits for local jurisdictions.

What is a hospitality special event? It could be an outdoor street fair where many store licensees set up tables to sell their products and where marijuana consumption occurs. Page 5, line 15 of the bill states: "A licensee that is authorized to sell retail marijuana to customers may partner with a person qualified under subsection (2)(a) of this section to hold a special event."



We oppose this change in expansion of hospitality licensing because enforcement of the marijuana code will be difficult in that environment. Page 7, line 9 of the bill states: "if a violation of this Article 10 occurs during a special event and the responsible licensee cannot be identified, the State Licensing Authority may send written notice to every licensee identified on the permit applications and may fine each licensee the same dollar amount. The fine must not exceed twenty-five dollars per licensee or two hundred dollars in the aggregate."

The penalties for code violations cited above are inadequate to discourage code violations such as underage sales. A \$25 fine is a mere slap on the wrist to licensees. In comparison, if an underage sale were to occur at the store location of the licensee, the penalty, per current regulation, could include a license suspension or a fine in lieu of suspension of up to \$100,000.

For these reasons, One Chance opposes House Bill 25-1331.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel O'Bryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Rachel O'Bryan

Co-founder and Special Projects Director

One Chance to Grow Up