

Dear New York State Senate,

10/28/2023

Good morning/afternoon. Thank you all for allowing Essential Flowers, Inc. D.B.A. Legacy Dispensers the opportunity to make a statement. My name is Matthew Robinson. I am the founder and CEO of Essential Flowers, Inc. D.B.A. Legacy Dispensers. I received my provisional CAURD license in November of 2022. I worked tirelessly to receive my final Adult Use Retail Dispensary – Temporary Delivery Only license. Finally, on 4/13/2023 I received final licensure. On 4/20/2023 we opened our doors as NYS's first TDO retail dispensary. To get to that point I worked from 6:00 am- 1:00 am everyday. I've sacrificed hours and days of time with my 2-year-old son to accomplish this goal. I've cried, I've gone through depression in silence, and I've given my all. I do not hold the OCM/CCB responsible for the way things are turning out. They did their best to get the program going. They are not perfect and mistakes we're made, but they created a great program that is being destroyed by large MSO's.

I would like to focus on 4 points (though there are dozens of issues at hand – some more important than others) in no particular order:

- 1) The understaffing of the OCM/CCB – Tasked with a large responsibility that should have been impossible to complete, they persevered and continue to get as much done as possible. They have made great progress in making the industry successful (i.e. – opening over 25 dispensaries, Cannabis Grower's Showcase, etc.).
- 2) Those behind the curtains – This is in reference to those that are causing the CAURD program to fail and be unsuccessful intentionally for the betterment of big corporations. These are the true controllers of the CAURD program (i.e. – DASNY, etc.)
- 3) Laws and rules (the tax man cometh) – Some of the rules set forth in the MRTA and guidance are irregular, contribute to the stigma, and make it almost impossible to be successful in the cannabis space. (i.e. – excise tax, marketing/advertising rules, biotrack, etc.)
- 4) Failing farms – Farmer's are failing and struggling, they need help somehow/someway. They have given everything to help NYS get the Adult Use program off the ground and they are being sold down the river.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will see you soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Robinson