THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health
ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM
AND DRUG ABUSE

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November 22, 2022

Joan M. Wilson, Director
Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600
Anchorage, AK 9950

CC: Governor Mike Dunleavy

RE: Proposed Changes on Exterior Window Pickup in the Regulations of the Marijuana Control Board

Dear Director Wilson,

The joint mission of the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) is to advocate for programs and services the promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans. The Boards are also tasked with evaluating federal and state laws concerning mental health, alcohol, and other drug and substance misuse prevention and treatment services.

Our advisory boards strongly oppose the proposed regulations to allow exterior window pickup at marijuana dispensaries. Allowing children under the age of 7 to be in the vehicle at the point of marijuana sale, normalizes cannabis usage to underaged Alaskans. Exposure to cannabis usage at a young age, as well as increasing the availability of the product, could increase the number of Alaskan youth who will eventually use marijuana. The proposed regulations also do not include measures that are proven to decrease youth initiation, including density restrictions on the number of licenses and zoning restrictions on the location of the licensee in relation to youth sensitive areas.

We feel the magnitude of this proposed license change is a deviation from the intent of the citizens' initiative to create a license type for legal recreational and medical cannabis use and should be handled via the statutory process rather than changes to the Administrative Code.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Sharon Clark
AMHB Chair

Renee Schofield
ABADA Chai