January 27, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

The Hon. Adam Gómez
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The Hon. Michael J. Soter
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Re: Cannabis Control Commission legislation

Dear Members of the Conference Committee:

Since June 2024 I have been calling for change to the governance structure of the Cannabis Control Commission (Commission). Its current structure is untenable as has been demonstrated over the last few years. The enabling statute is ambiguous and has led to confusion over the responsibilities of the chair of the board, board members and the executive director.

Though they take different approaches to get there, both House 4206 and Senate 2749 create greater accountability by clarifying roles and responsibilities at the Commission. Such accountability and clear lines of authority are paramount to effectively running an agency that oversees an industry which generated $1.65 billion in sales last year.

After all this time, my concerns with the Commission have not dissipated. I urge the Conference Committee to conclude its negotiations soon so reforms at the Commission may begin as quickly as possible.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 617-722-8806 or Jeffrey.S.Shapiro@mass.gov, or Joshua Giles, Director, Government Outreach and Public Policy, at 617-719-8225 or Joshua.Giles@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Shapiro, Esq., CIG
Inspector General

cc: (via email)

Joshua Giles, Director, Government Outreach and Public Policy Division, OIG
Nataliya Urciuoli, Senior Executive Assistant, OIG

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