

Hello,

Im Latisha Ellery, I just wanted to share my concerns about the application process for the cannabis retail opportunity that is going to be available to the minorities in our state. I had attended the listen and learn meeting on March 23d 2022 and was honestly pretty disappointed at the amount of helpful information that was not covered In the 3 hour meeting. It really seemed like a complaint session for the African American advocates to complain about how they as one race among many races weren't given the opportunity to get into the marijuana retail business, but isn't this opportunity for the people that didn't get a fair chance when retail stores opened in Washington State? I don't mean to sound apathetic or callous to African Americans, everyone has struggles and things that happen in their lives or the lives of their ancestors. The things that were being said during this meeting were irrelevant to what this meeting was to be about we all have problems whatever they may be and I felt as if it was a sob story session instead of a listen a learn about this opportunity. I felt bad for the board members because they were being verbally attacked basically, and when I asked a question that was very relevant to the scoring rubric I was attacked as well and a board member had to step in and mute the individual which I am very grateful for, so thank you sir for doing that.

I feel that the current scoring rubric that the LCB plans to use to see who qualifies for the social equality program is unfair and unjust to any person of any race.

First of all how is the LCB board think that dividing us by race to determine the amount of points one qualifies for is social equality that is social injustice. We should all get the same amount of points no matter what our race is. The points for our merits or for our backgrounds should be based on each individual's background. I shouldn't get less points for living in poverty area than a African American or hispanic person because I'm native. Our backgrounds and individual merits should determine the points we can qualify for. Any other way of scoring would be based on another social injustice for the people of color that live in our state.

I would like your department to try to understand, coming from a different point of view. There is 40 licenses available so since African Americans get the most points across the board if 40 African Americans apply for the same program I apply for being Native American or say a person of Hispanic decent applies for, and a Native American or Hispanic checks all the boxes across the current scoring rubric, but in the current point system neither the person of Native or Hispanic decent has no chance of qualifying. I say this because if 40 African Americans apply they get more points on the rubric than any other race, so if the license is awarded on points then no other race even has a chance to qualify because one single race gets more points in every category and that in itself is social injustice not social equality.

I would like to see the point system be revised with all races to be considered for example:

Eligibility criteria should be based on if you qualify for all the criteria. Any person of a different race shouldn't get more points because of their race or how much of a race they are. All the category's should be treated like the business plan category and not points being awarded on race or percentages of race. You recieve a certain amount of points for having a business plan across the rubric and every category should be treated like that. I think it should be this way because no other race than African Americans will have a chance to qualify on the current scoring rubric, so Im wondering if this program was made for African American community only in mind? Also why are people of Asian decent not included in this?

I don't want to get in to my individual story/qualifications but want to give an example so it can be better understood of how unfair and unjust the current scoring rubric is. I am of Native decent and both my parents are Native American from two different tribes but the United States government says that I can only enroll with one tribe. They also set the blood Quantum levels for a Native American to be enough Native American to be enrolled. So since I have 2 parents of Native American decent, but can only enroll with one tribe due to current laws. I am only a quarter Native American on my enrollment paperwork. Even though I am actually half Native American. Being documented at only a quarter would put me at the least likely to qualify for the social equality program under the current scoring rubric.

I really hope the social equality board takes this into consideration and revises the current scoring rubric to make it fair for all people of all races that want to apply for this wonderful opportunity in our beautiful state. Thank you for your time I hope you all have a wonderful day and blessed lives.

Sincerely,

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