

ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS



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September 4, 2020

Governor Pritzker,

When we voted to legalize cannabis over a year ago, we did so with the intent of correcting the wrongs of the past while providing economic stimulus to Illinoisans who had been harmed the most by the war on drugs. Since that time, each of us have been touched by stories of constituents that believed that the licensing process in Illinois would provide social equity. These calls for economic justice have only increased amongst a growing recognition that an economy that works for a select few has always left people of color behind. We've seen it as our communities have grappled with COVID-19. We've seen it as our constituents find themselves underpaid and out of work. And we've seen it with increasing violence in Black and brown communities.

In this moment, Illinois has more tools to do right by our constituents than ever. We voted for a law that had a framework for the administration to create more Black and Latino cannabis startups than any other state in the country. That's why we were shocked to see that up to 75 dispensaries will be awarded to 21 entities. Our shock is outweighed by the countless calls we've fielded from constituents questioning if this process was equitable and achieve the goals we share to diversify the cannabis industry.

We're searching for answers and therefore are asking you to suspend the lottery process until the following tasks have been completed:

1. Post the following exhibits of the top scorers on the IDFPR Web site:

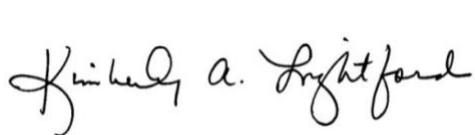
P.O. BOX 10243 · Springfield, Illinois 62791 · ILBC.Foundation@gmail.com

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- Exhibit B – Principal Officer Application Form(s)
 - Exhibit C – Table of Organization, Ownership and Control and Business Operating Agreements Applicants
 - **Exhibit M – Diversity Plan**
 - Exhibit N – ANONYMOUS Knowledge and Experience of Principal Officers
 - Exhibit P – Evidence of Status as a Social Equity Applicant
 - Exhibit S – Evidence of Status as an Illinois Owner (Optional)
 - Exhibit T – Evidence of Status as a Veteran
2. Disclose scoring practices by providing a detailed scoring rubric for how these dispensary licenses were scored. To that end, we're asking for any guidelines that KPMG are using to score applications for Craft Grow, Infusion, and Transport licenses.
 3. Provide background about KPMG's no-bid contract and more information about who conducted the review process. We'd like to know why and when KPMG was engaged. Furthermore, at a time when intentionality is so important, we're asking for the following diversity statistics of KPMG:
 - a. Are there blacks & minorities on their board?
 - b. What are the diversity statistics of the company's staff?
 - c. Were the application reviewers minorities?
 - d. Were any subcontractors used for this work? Were they minority-owned?
 4. Suspend any action the administration may be considering regarding the participation of these entities in the Social Equity Cannabis Business Development Fund and disclose the administration's standards of need.

We believe these steps will help shed light on whether this was a fair process that benefits those in our communities that have been most impacted by the war on drugs.

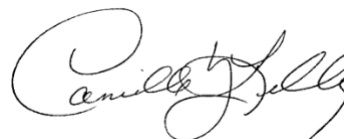
Sincerely,



Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford



Senator Belt



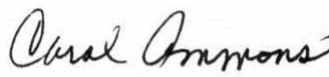
Representative Lilly



Senator Harris



Senator Hunter



Representative Ammons



Representative Davis

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Representative Harper



Representative Welch