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Diane T. Capehart
Senator, 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Chairperson, Committee on Rules & Judiciary
3022 Estate Golden Rock
Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00820

Re: Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board Nominee

Committee Chairperson Senator Diane T. Capehart, Ranking Members of the 35th Legislature, and distinguished members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary,

My name is Jamila L Miller Christopher, and I am deeply honored to present myself as a representative from the Department of Tourism for the Cannabis Advisory Board representing under the esteemed leadership of Commissioner Joseph B. Boschutle. It is my understanding as a member of the board, that my primary responsibility is to provide, financial and marketing data expertise regarding the potential impact of the cannabis industry on the tourism economy of the US Virgin Islands. I am truly excited about the opportunity to share my background and qualifications, which I believe make me an excellent fit for this role.

I was born and raised in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, where I grew up in a close-knit family. My parents, Andrea Frett Miller Shaw and Gene Miller, instilled in me the values of hard work, integrity, and community service. Their unwavering dedication to providing a stable and nurturing environment has deeply influenced my aspirations and commitment to public service. I am a proud parent of two children. My daughter Ja'Day, 20, is currently attending college, and my son Dillon, 13, is in middle school. My experiences as a parent have further reinforced my commitment to creating a better, more equitable society for future generations.

I pursued my undergraduate education at the University of Phoenix, where I earned a bachelor's degree in business management. It equipped me with a solid foundation in organizational behavior, strategic planning, and policy development. My passion for continuous learning led me to obtaining a master's degree in human resources management (HRM) from Southern New

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Hampshire University, which honed my skills necessary to design, implement, and evaluate policies and procedures that promote efficiency, equity, and compliance within any organization.

My professional experience spans over 20 years, and I have worked in various capacities, with my most recent from HR generalist roles to senior management positions, in both the private and public sectors. Throughout my career, I have worked with extraordinary teams in developing and implementing policies that align with organizational goals, while ensuring adherence to legal and regulatory standards. This work has involved collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including employees, management, and regulatory bodies, to create inclusive and effective workplace environments. For example, my understanding of state policies that address anti-discrimination for medical cannabis patients which are designed to prevent discrimination against a protected class. Medical cannabis is currently legal in 37 states.

In my current role as Director of Administration and Management at the Department of Tourism, I have oversight of financial management, human resources management, event execution, policy development and compliance and risk management, ensuring that administrative and operational processes are efficient: resources are used effectively, staff are well-managed, and the department remains compliant with all relevant regulations. Working in the tourism industry has given me a deep understanding of the complexities involved in policy implementation and the importance of achieving sustainable outcomes.

The Cannabis Advisory Board presents a unique and exciting opportunity for me to contribute my expertise to an evolving and impactful field. My background in Human Resources has equipped me with the ability to navigate complex regulatory landscapes, advocate for equitable practices, and facilitate stakeholder engagement—skills that are directly transferable to the work of the Advisory Board.

If selected as a member of the Cannabis Advisory Board, I shall be committed to supporting the development and implementation of policies that promote responsible cannabis use, protect public health, and foster economic opportunities for our territory. I envision a Board that is proactive in its approach, responsive to the needs of our community, and dedicated to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Cannabis industry in our territory. I believe my presence ensures that the interests and concerns of the tourism sector are taken into

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consideration when formulating policies and making decisions regarding the cannabis industry.

Thank you for accepting my testimony. I welcome any questions you may have and look forward to the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamila L. Miller Christopher

Board Nominee, Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board