

Testimony in Support of AB 1027
Assembly Business and Professions Committee
April 29, 2025

Good morning, Chair Berman and Members.

Amy O’Gorman Jenkins here on behalf of the California Cannabis Operators Association, or CaCOA, which represents more than 300 licensed cannabis businesses across the supply chain.

Collectively, our members serve more than half of California’s population, and are committed to ensuring a regulated cannabis marketplace that prioritizes public health, consumer safety, and fair competition.

We are proud to sponsor AB 1027 by Assemblymember Sharp-Collins, a measured and thoughtful bill that strengthens oversight of cannabis testing to improve transparency, support enforcement consistency, and reinforce consumer confidence in California’s cannabis market.

California has long required cannabis products to undergo testing by licensed laboratories to ensure compliance with limits on pesticides, heavy metals, and other contaminants. And yet, recent findings make clear that further action is needed to maintain trust and accountability.

A 2024 *Los Angeles Times* investigation revealed that more than half of sampled products—drawn from a small number of brands—exceeded acceptable pesticide levels when tested independently.

Separately, a study conducted by two licensed testing laboratories found that 87% of 150 randomly tested products displayed THC levels that didn’t match their labeling. While not necessarily a health threat in every instance, these findings highlight the need for better safeguards to ensure accurate, reliable product information.

AB 1027 takes a comprehensive approach by:

- Requiring blind proficiency testing for laboratories and granting the Department of Cannabis Control explicit authority to retest products and review lab practices for scientific integrity;
- Authorizing off-the-shelf testing and random quality assurance reviews at licensed distributors, microbusinesses, and retailers;

- Streamlining the embargo process for misbranded or adulterated products;
- Requiring retailers to provide Certificates of Analysis (COAs) to consumers upon request; and
- Mandating that all testing results be properly recorded in the state's track-and-trace system.

These provisions are straightforward, enforceable, and fiscally neutral—and their impact will be meaningful. They support public health, promote transparency, and protect compliant operators from being undercut by bad actors who may be cutting corners or manipulating test results.

AB 1027 is a timely and necessary step forward, and we thank Assemblymember Sharp-Collins for her leadership. We respectfully urge your support.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.