

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Genevieve Towne

**Date Submitted:** 04/23/2025 11:19 AM

**Council File No:** 24-1447

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a dispensary Operations Manager in California, I'm writing to strongly urge you to oppose the proposed increase in the cannabis excise tax and to support AB 564, which would amend the law requiring this hike. Raising the excise tax from 15% to as much as 19% on July 1, 2025, would be devastating—not just for businesses like mine, but for the entire legal cannabis industry and the communities we serve. We're already operating under one of the most heavily taxed and regulated systems in the state. By the time excise, state, and local taxes are added up, our customers are paying up to 39% in taxes at the register. That's simply not sustainable. The consequences are real: dispensaries are shutting down, jobs are disappearing, and the illicit market—filled with untested, unregulated, and unsafe products—is thriving. For medical patients, the impact is even worse. Many are losing access to the specific products they rely on as prices rise and legal options shrink. As someone deeply invested in this industry, I know we need thoughtful reform, not higher taxes. Lowering the tax burden and creating a more balanced regulatory framework would stabilize the market, improve consumer safety, and keep tax revenue flowing for the long term. I urge you to support AB 564 and work to lower—not raise—cannabis taxes. Stand with California's cannabis businesses, our employees, and our patients. Thank you for your consideration.