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MAILROOM

Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
P.O. Box 43085
Olympia, WA 98504-3085

Monday, February 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board,

I am writing to formally request that the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board consider amending its current regulations to allow Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) as acceptable forms of identification for the purchase of cannabis and alcohol.

Under the current regulations, the acceptable forms of identification include a Driver's License, Instruction Permit, or I.D. Card issued by any U.S. State, U.S. Territory, and the District of Columbia, among others. However, Permanent Resident Cards are not listed as acceptable forms of identification. This exclusion creates unnecessary barriers for lawful permanent residents who are otherwise eligible to purchase these products.

The current law, as outlined on the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board's website, specifies that identification must be valid (not expired) and show the bearer's date of birth, signature, and photograph. However, the requirement for a signature is becoming increasingly outdated for several reasons:

- **Technological Advancements:** With advancements in technology, more secure and reliable methods of identification, such as biometrics and holography, are now available. Green Cards include a fingerprint, which is a unique and more secure form of identification compared to a signature. Unlike signatures, which can be forged or altered, fingerprints provide a foolproof way to verify an individual's identity. Green Cards furthermore include embedded holographic images, making it easy to verify that it is genuine.
- **Digital Security:** Many forms of identification and verification are moving away from signatures in favor of digital and biometric methods. Embracing this trend would align with current best practices in security and identification.
- **Standardization:** Several other forms of modern identification, including passports and certain national identity cards, do not rely on signatures as the primary means

of verification. By accepting Green Cards, which are standardized federal documents, Washington State would be aligning its regulations with broader identification standards.

- **User Convenience:** Federal law requires Green Card holders to always carry their Green Cards on them, unlike other forms of identification. This means lawful permanent residents always have a secure and reliable form of identification with them, making it convenient for both the individuals and the businesses verifying their age.

Allowing Green Cards as proof of age and identification would not only simplify the process for lawful permanent residents but also ensure that all eligible individuals are treated fairly and equitably. This change would align with the principles of inclusivity and fairness that our state strives to uphold.

I respectfully urge the Board to consider this request and take the necessary steps to amend the current regulations to include Permanent Resident Cards as acceptable forms of identification for the purchase of cannabis and alcohol.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,



Ole Mikkelsen, Ph.D., PERMANENT RESIDENT