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Good morning Chairperson Hickman and Chairperson Supica and honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Susan Meehan, and I am a registered caregiver in Maine, and I am a Board member of the Maine Cannabis Coalition and a member of the Cannabis Council of Maine. I moved from Connecticut to Maine to access Maine's medical cannabis to treat my daughter's devastating Dravet Syndrome epilepsy in 2013. Cannabis brought Cyndimae from her deathbed in nearly constant seizures and from a wheelchair to a happy, running, playing child who loved the cold water rapids of Maine and the snow covered hills and the many playgrounds. Cyndimae passed away from \*SUDEP while sleeping on her daddy's chest here in Augusta, Maine on March 13, 2016.

I testify neither for nor against LD 48 as it lands in Maine's Adult Use, and I generally "work" in Maine Medical; however, normalizing this plant and normalizing people managing their own medicine and normalizing body autonomy is an important part of protecting access to this plant. Had every neighbor had a garden when our Cyndimae struggled to find strains comparable to those destroyed by police in Connecticut in 2013, maybe we would still be graced by Cyndimae's physical presence. We found amazing medicine in Maine, but nothing stopped her seizures like the one strain we lucked upon in Connecticut at the end of 2012.

I find it ridiculous that we debate in our legislature cartoon characters, geometric shapes, mythical creatures and the like. Have you walked through an alcohol aisle in the grocery store? There are mooses, dragons, people, and just about everything up for debate in this bill. I laugh at the Maine lottery minivan in the parking lot at 19 Union Street every time – it is so appealing to children with all its colorful balls littering its bright and shiny surface. Is gambling okay to appeal to children? Have you witnessed a wrapped delivery truck advertising Budweiser driving down Maine's roads? As a society, we embrace our alcohol, a poison that has led more people to their deaths than perhaps any other drug. I partake – I am not asking that we prohibit alcohol – your body, your choice. I am asking that we please put an end to this nonsense of not allowing cannabis businesses to advertise in both Adult Use and Medical. Let parents do the parenting, and yes please keep laws in place to discourage our youth from abusing these substances and activities, but there is not a completely comprehensive list of cans and cannots. Something will be amiss and someone will find it. The stigma created in 1930's America continues to hamper access to this plant.

As for testing, I just hope that it is sensible and meaningful. We can lock up the supply chain as Oregon has done and people will turn to the illicit market. The only meaningful testing is spot check audits and random spot checks by OCP (or other?) that will test for pesticides and perhaps aspergillus mold. We have no data on pesticides in combusted and inhaled plant matter, but consumers should be informed. While I would choose a more expensive and pesticide free option, many consumers even in the grocery store do not care. Please be reasonable.

Let parents parent, doctors medicate and legislators legislate. Children are going to see and witness things their parents do not agree with, and it is up to the parents to have those conversations with children who do not live in an isolated bubble but in a society full of diversity and different viewpoints. I hope both programs can be affected by sensible and reasonable and less subjective depending on the inspector of the day guidelines. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

\*SUDEP Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy