

Roxanne Kai-Petrovich
West Paris Provisions
LD 365

Senator Craig Hickman, House Chair Laura Supica and other distinguished members of the committee of Veteran and Legal Affairs. I am speaking today in support of LD365 although, with some reservations and concern of OCP guidance and bureaucratic power.

My name is Roxy Kai, I am the Public Relations and Media Manager at West Paris Provisions. I am here to speak on behalf of my boss, Andelena Henderson.

Andelena is a Navy Veteran, who serves our community on the West Paris town board, and is the caregiver at West Paris Provisions Medical Dispensary, and this bill is personal.

Does everyone remember the subway 5 dollar foot long song? Here's your ear worm to remember my testimony because West Paris went down over a single 5. 5 dollar. 5 dollar pre-roll.

Andelena temporarily Lost her caregivers license over a 5 dollar preroll. a one gram. 5 dollar. single preroll. The employees, the majority of which have children, all lost temporarily lost their jobs, had to collect unemployment, and be put on Maine care. All over a single, 1 gram, 5\$ preroll.

Beyond the employees loosing their jobs, Andelena almost faced homelessness. one of offered plea deals was to not be allowed around their cannabis grows or touch cannabis for 6 months, her husband also has a caregivers license, but the grow was at their home, where was she supposed to go? Live in her van and park at Walmart? Gratefully another plea deal was offered that Andelena and her Attorney settled on.

But the biggest kicker is the events that transpired before this punishment that was described as "the death penalty for Jay Walking" by her attorney who is an ex state trooper.

This all transpired after WPP had an inspection that ended up with a few things that we were given time for to correct and this is where they first learned of the issue with the 5 dollar pre-roll; one was a graphic on a sticker that came from an outsourced vender, we were told their label sticker wasn't in compliance but because we were selling it, we had to fix it, and were made to cover up the graphic, The Vender, whom were friends with, also had an inspection with the same Inspector and was told he only had to change the sticker after he was out of the approximately 2500 stickers he had but it was ok to use them until they were gone. This is a prime example of why we need established guidelines to enforce regulations fairly across the board and know what to expect. Let us be clear, it is NOT that we wanted our friend and fellow cannabis caregiver to get in trouble by any means, just using it as an example for why we need this bill - fairness should be expected across the board.

Ultimately though, here is the situation that I struggle with the most, WPP was told repeatedly that they corrected everything, and were in good standing, but 9 months later with no warning Andelena's caregivers card was yanked. The charge they stuck her with was the single 5 dollar pre-roll.

To paint you the whole picture for context: We had a an employee, whom no longer works for us, as part of the consequence that was enforced to correct the mistake. She was on register, it was busy that day, and an older man came in, knew her by name and had the exact amount of change for exactly one \$5 1 gram preroll. He knew our establishment, knew exactly what he wanted, acted like regular, and acted as if he was in a major rush. This is where she messed up, and we acknowledge that a mistake was made: the mistake was, she didn't check his ID let him put the money on the counter and take the preroll, thinking she was helping him out quickly, as he was in a rush. She thought she knew who he was and intended to just look him up in the system and complete the transaction without him there as she had been given the exact change. Turns out it wasn't who she thought it was, which is why it is important to check all IDs, and It turns out this was a sting: The older man was an undercover police officer.

We know that employee and US, West Paris Provisions by proxy, made a mistake and

broke the law, We acknowledge that and agree that we got caught making a mistake and should have had some sort of consequence. The employees consequence was getting let go of; but, set up to work at a different dispensary, and Andelena, as the Caregiver took the brunt of the punishment. However, Andelena wasn't the only one effected by the consequence of this mistake. Multiple Families lost their jobs, started collecting unemployment, Andelena's livelihood was taken away from her during the time frame her husband was battling stage 4 throat cancer and had no job, they weren't even sure if she would wake up one day and he'd be alive or not next to her, and this consequence had the unintended affect that caused him to loose his financial security for healthcare and treatments for his cancer.

I ask you does this sound like the consequence was comparable to the crime of a 5 dollar preroll? Would a fine, and or a mandatory refresher class on rules and regulations have been a more appropriate and fitting punishment?

We made a human error. We are human. Treat us as such and give us grace when you do set up the guidelines for a publicly available an known, guided/tiered consequence system, that is clearly needed to ensure fair treatment with realistic consequences that can be expected to be practiced for all caregivers. Lastly, for us caregivers and CGA's, we are all in this together, let's make sure all of us are treated with dignity and the same fairness as on another.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Roxanne Kai