



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association in Support of:
LD 365: An Act to Support Compliance and Establish Graduated Sanctions Under the Maine Medical
Use of Cannabis Act**

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
State House, Room 437
Friday, March 3, 2023

Good morning, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Rebecca Boulos. I am a resident of South Portland and executive director of Maine Public Health Association.

MPHA is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 700 individual members and 60 organizations across the state. The mission of MPHA is to improve and sustain the health and well-being of all people in Maine through health promotion, disease prevention, and the advancement of health equity. As a statewide nonprofit association, we advocate, act, and advise on critical public health challenges, aiming to improve the policies, systems, and environments that underlie health inequities – but which also have potential to improve health outcomes for all people in Maine. We are not tied to a national agenda, which means we are responsive to the needs of Maine's communities, and we take that responsibility seriously.

MPHA is in support of LD 365: "An Act to Support Compliance and Establish Graduated Sanctions Under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act." This bill directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to adopt major substantive rules to develop a graduated enforcement plan for violations of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act or rules adopted under the Act to include a stakeholder process in the adoption of those rules and to make the enforcement plan publicly available.

According to a [2022 report](#) published by the Office of Cannabis Policy, more than half (54%) of consumers who purchase from home-based caregivers do not have a medical card. Similarly, approximately 1 in 3 consumers who purchase at medical dispensaries or from caregivers with retail storefronts do not have a medical card (33%).

Given these findings, we support this bill and its intent to provide additional oversight and enforcement of medical cannabis sales. We believe the provisions of a stakeholder engagement process and public enforcement plan will promote transparency and clarity, and we are supportive of those inclusions. Thank you for considering our testimony.