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Elevate Maine
LD 94

I am opposing LD 94.

When reading these proposed changes I'm trying to understand who they help the most. What seems apparent to me is that these changes will only help the adult use market making it more difficult to acquire a medical card, limit the medication provided, ban out of state patients, limit providers, and expose patients to revealing their medical issues.

1. Making it more difficult to acquire a medical card and limit providers. This bill is proposing physicians to be the only providers for a medical card and the medical card must come from the state. This is rolling the law back to 2009's standards where the average medical card price was \$300 due to the limited providers. Today the average price is \$50 because of the large amount of providers available and is necessary for patients on a limited budget.

2. Limit the medication provided. LD 94 proposes redefining medical cannabis and does not include concentrates. It goes further and restricts concentrates from any medical cannabis including edibles. Edible cannabis requires concentrates in order for them to even be made. Cannabis must be heated past 180 degrees in a process called decarboxylation to turn THC-A into bioavailable THC and then bound to a fat or sugar as a vehicle to dose any edible. This process itself is creating a concentrate making edibles impossible to make due to the prohibited use of concentrates. Cannabis concentrates provide a way to consume cannabis without carcinogens from plant material and can be taken in small amounts while providing an adequate dose to the patient.

3. Ban out of state patients. LD 94 proposes "qualifying patients" as "a person who has been a resident of the State for at least 30 days." Who does this help other than to force patients to the adult market? We already limit reciprocity to medical states that cooperate with Maine's cannabis program. Maine annually has 20-30 million tourists that visit every year and they should have a way to access their medicine.

Exposing patients to revealing their medical issues. LD 94 proposes that the medical card has "a code signifying the qualifying condition identified by the medical provider." How is this not a HIPPA violation? this unnecessarily exposes patients to revealing their qualifying conditions. You don't need your qualifying condition posted on your traditional medical prescription from a doctor so why cannabis?