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Warren
LD 2215

February 27, 2024

LD 2215

OUGHT NOT TO PASS

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 2215 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Regarding Public Records Exceptions.

As a medical cannabis caregiver who operates a business from home I have significant safety concerns with the direction of this legislation.

LD2215 removes all confidentiality of my home address and personal contact information (as defined in Title 26 section 615, subsection 4) where I not only have my medical cannabis caregiver business but I also raise my family.

The danger of exposing the home addresses of cannabis caregivers is significant and real. Many of us do not have bank accounts and have cash at home because cannabis still maintains federal illegal scheduling. Banking is possible for some individuals who can afford \$500.00/ month account fees, \$1,000.00 audit fees but for small farms it is not financially affordable. We cannot possess firearms for protection (if desired) due to Title 15 subsection G. Notwithstanding the prohibition under 18 United States Code, Section 922(g)(3), the use, possession or transport of cannabis in accordance with Title 22, chapter 558-C or Title 28-B may not serve as the basis for the prohibition to own, possess or have under a person's control a firearm in this section. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D Crime.

Of special significance is that my children reside on my farm where my business is. I do not advertise my business address publicly for the specific reason that I do not want to put my children at risk with persons who may want to come onto my property to potentially commit a crime of theft. Not only is my farm my place of business but it is also the home of my family and where my children have friends over. This is our Home.

There is no public health crisis to warrant the disclosure of the personal addresses of medical cannabis caregivers. Any issue of a potential contaminant or recall is handled by traceability of that product and removal from stores and shelves as well as notification to vendors and patients. This is a standard process which is already utilized successfully in the agriculture and food safety realms as well as with cannabis. I question how exposing the home addresses of medical cannabis caregivers achieves anything other than putting caregivers, families, and children in danger.

Any personal information which can be used or stolen by those wishing to commit crimes should be handled with the utmost care. As 1.3 million Maine residents discovered this fall, personal information is not guaranteed safe. The citizens of Maine were notified that the entire State was affected by the theft of social security numbers and private information. Our data is not safe even when in the hands of the state.

Any registered medical cannabis program participant is licensed yearly by the Office of Cannabis Policy, a background check is run yearly, we are required to have resale certificates, pay sales tax through the maine revenue services sales tax portal. There are multiple ways in which our identity is verified and our businesses are regulated. The cannabis industry as a whole is scrutinized more heavily than almost any other business sector.

I am supportive of any measure to add confidentiality for medical caregiver businesses but not to strip these protections away.

I urge the committee to vote ought not to pass LD 2215.

Respectfully,

Arleigh Kraus