

Jack Mallory  
Bethel  
LD 40

Hello VLA,

My name is Jack Mallory and I would like to support LD 40. I'm a bar manager, although I was considering working in the cannabis industry so I do have my IIC. Here are the thinks from LD 40 I support and why:

Making cannabis products come in opaque packaging just doesn't make sense in the world of cannabis policy. These rules, often based on old-fashioned ideas, don't fit with the trend toward clear and well-informed cannabis regulations. Opaque packaging stops customers from being able to see the products, making it harder for them to make smart choices and tell products apart. This goes against the idea of being open and honest in marketing, which is really important for building a cannabis industry that people can trust. In a time when transparency is valued, forcing opaque packaging seems like a step in the wrong direction, holding back the industry from becoming more normal and accepted.

Making background checks mandatory for cannabis industry workers raises some serious issues. It seems like it could lead to discrimination and keep alive the old stigma around cannabis. These checks affect people with past non-violent drug offenses the most, especially those from communities hit hardest by drug laws. It just doesn't seem right, especially now that cannabis is becoming more accepted and legal. Requiring these checks in an industry that's already been pushed to the sidelines just adds to the idea that people in the cannabis business can't be trusted. We need to rethink these rules to make sure everyone in the cannabis workforce gets fair treatment.

From an outsider's perspective, it's baffling to see the inefficiencies in the cannabis industry's license renewal process. Comparing it to how normal businesses are treated, where you usually just need to verify there are no changes, the cannabis industry seems to be stuck in a bureaucratic nightmare. Requiring businesses to resubmit the exact same items year after year is not only a waste of time and resources but also sets a double standard. Simplifying the renewal process could bring the cannabis industry more in line with how other businesses are treated, making it easier for them to comply with regulations and focus on growth.

Requiring annual fingerprinting for a regulated industry, as mandated in our cannabis regulations, appears both illogical and wasteful. The need to provide fingerprints repeatedly, especially when they remain unchanged over short periods, lacks practicality. This requirement not only imposes recurring costs and inconvenience on industry individuals but also raises doubts about its effectiveness in ensuring public safety. Unlike professions that may require regular background checks, the cannabis sector's insistence on annual fingerprinting is excessive and outdated, driven more by stigma than necessity. This practice not only consumes unnecessary resources but also diverts attention and funding from more impactful safety measures. It's time to reconsider this costly and inefficient requirement in favor of more sensible and effective regulatory approaches.

For these reasons and more, I am in support of LD 40. Please vote to pass. Thank you.

Jack Mallory