

Finnian McLaughlin
Bethel
LD 40

Hello Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, & members of the Committee,

My name is Finnian McLaughlin, I am a student in college, and I am in support of LD 40. My family opened an adult use business at the launch of the program. I'd like to touch on a few topics related to the bill.

Simplifying the process of renewing cannabis licenses is a smart move that can help build a stronger and more efficient cannabis industry. By making renewal procedures easier, we can cut down on unnecessary red tape and make it simpler for businesses to follow the rules. A streamlined process makes it easier for existing businesses to stay compliant, which in turn helps them grow and thrive. This approach is part of a larger effort to make the cannabis industry just another normal, legitimate business sector. By making renewals more efficient and clear, authorities can support the industry's growth, creating more jobs and a clearer set of rules for everyone to follow.

In the regulated cannabis industry, it's crucial to treat law enforcement practices like we do in other legal industries. Giving them the automatic right to enter a cannabis business without the owner's okay, a proper warrant, or a recognized exemption just isn't fair or respectful of privacy. These practices not only ignore basic principles of fairness but also add to the stigma that's been hanging around the cannabis sector. Fixing this issue is important for making sure everyone plays by the same rules, building trust between law enforcement and cannabis businesses, and getting rid of the unfair biases that have been around for too long. Pushing for fair treatment is the way to go if we want a more open and fair set of rules for the cannabis sector.

The mandate to seek approval from the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) for routine activities such as plugging new things in or rearranging furniture places an undue burden on the cannabis industry. This requirement not only obstructs effective merchandising but also disrupts business operations. It introduces unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and signifies a level of micromanagement that could impede the industry's agility and responsiveness. The continual need for notification on such matters is excessive and disrupts the natural flow of business operations. By addressing this issue, as proposed in LD 40, the cannabis industry could benefit from a more streamlined regulatory approach. This would allow for efficient day-to-day management, fostering an environment conducive to growth and success.

I'm also frustrated by the inefficiencies in the cannabis industry's license renewal process. Having to deal with the redundant task of processing the same licenses every year without any changes is a waste of time and resources. It's absurd that businesses are required to resubmit the exact same items year after year. This not only adds unnecessary work but also contributes to extra costs in putting it together each time. Simplifying the renewal process by verifying that there are no changes could save a significant amount of time and money. It's time for the industry to wake up and address these inefficiencies to reduce policies that slow our industry down to zero.

Regarding background checks for cannabis industry employees, advocating for fair policy is essential. These checks, while intended to ensure safety and compliance, can inadvertently perpetuate discrimination and stigma. It's important to implement policies that balance safety with inclusivity, ensuring that individuals with non-violent drug convictions are not unfairly excluded from employment opportunities. By reevaluating these requirements and considering alternative approaches, we can create a more equitable framework that promotes diversity and opportunity within the cannabis industry.

I could go on and. LD 40 makes so many necessary fixes to so many things. Please consider passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Finnian McLaughlin