

Nate Hack
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LD 40

Hello Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the committee, My name is Nate Hack and I work in cannabis processing. I'm writing to support LD 40 for the following reasons: The significance of scrubbing cannabis stigma from the law books cannot be overstated. LD 40 is like a breath of fresh air, aiming to cleanse the legal landscape of outdated prejudices. As we move into a new era of cannabis acceptance, it is essential to shed the vestiges of historical bias that have unfairly characterized the industry. Stigma only serves to hinder progress and perpetuate unfounded stereotypes. LD 40's mission to eliminate discriminatory practices from the legal framework is a pivotal step towards fostering an inclusive and enlightened perspective on cannabis. By purging these stigmas, we pave the way for a more equitable, progressive, and rational approach to cannabis regulation. Setting out the job description for the director at OCP is essentially telling the director how the legislature, and the citizens who pay his \$145,780.00 salary, want him to act. LD 40 defines a solid to-do list: make sure cannabis is good for the public's health, keep an eye on those rules for license holders, and support local businesses (the ones who built the industry), and interpreting and enforcing laws with a steady hand. Plus, building relationships with the operators and making sure the whole program runs smoothly. This way, everyone gets their fair share of high-quality cannabis, and the state gets a booming industry that produces jobs and is good for Mainers. The mandated requirement for cannabis enterprises to formally notify the Office of Cannabis Policy regarding changes in ownership introduces an unnecessary administrative encumbrance. Unlike prevalent norms in various industries, wherein such notifications are not obligatory, the cannabis sector is subjected to an additional layer of regulatory oversight. This stipulation not only poses an impediment to streamlined operations but also implies a degree of distrust or suspicion towards cannabis businesses. The persistence of such a requirement perpetuates a discernible stigma, suggesting disparate treatment within regulatory frameworks. Reconsidering and alleviating this mandate would not only facilitate operational efficiency but also contribute to dispelling unwarranted biases against the cannabis industry. The necessity for clarity regarding caregivers' roles and responsibilities in the cannabis industry is also paramount. LD 40 offers a ray of hope by proposing changes that not only align with current practices but also fortify them. For individuals like me, who are striving to be the best legal cannabis state in the United States but currently lack clarity about the future, LD 40's potential to clearly define permissible actions is a source of optimism. Maine passing these amendments promise not only to enhance our understanding of caregivers' roles but also to create a more stable and predictable environment. This framework supports our collective aspiration for a responsible and effective cannabis industry, elevating our hopes for a brighter future. Thank you for taking this into consideration. Please pass LD 40.