

Asher Putterman
Warren
LD 40

My name is Asher Putterman, I'm a medical caregiver and farmer in Warren and a board member of the Maine Craft Cannabis Assoc. I am in support of LD40, it makes many commonsense adjustments to statute that has been sought for years by both the participants of these programs as well as the OCP. After spending many years listening to stakeholder and OCP testimony and after forming subcommittees to look deeper into issues, this bill is a result of all the hard work that was done by members of the legislature. There were a few grammatical and technical changes that were noted in testimony by the Maine Craft Cannabis Assoc. and I'll just recommend the organizations testimony for clarity on those. On the whole this bill is a huge step forward for the program and the organization of OCP. We especially like to see the added definition of batch and group testing, the duties of OCP and the director and the removal of a draconian, and war on drugs style of law enforcement that has been a problematic part of the relationship between OCP and the programs participants. This bill also helps to begin to remove the stigma of cannabis and attempts to get to the bottom of the remains of the war on drugs propaganda that could be at the base of the problem with OCP. We are deeply in favor of this bill and hope that it will be carried forward with only minor technical changes and that the bills intent for OCP to be more supportive of the industry it regulates will be honored. This bill has been building for years and after having to spend so many winters going over all of these issues within the legislative process we hope that we can but a close to this all for a little while and see how the program functions with some commonsense rule changes. The AU program has struggled from its inception and after hearing testimony after testimony from its struggling businesses, its nice to see these changes offered to those participants. The medical definitions and changes are also commonsense and built on real time experience from those participants of the program. These mostly minor changes should create some opportunities for stability as this emerging market matures and as we begin to face, as Mainers, an emerging nationwide and soon worldwide cannabis market. This bill is a start at protecting Maine businesses and helping this market to be robust as it faces much larger markets, this isn't the easiest climate to grow cannabis, but its challenges increase the quality and Mainers are known for some of the best quality cannabis nationwide. Please pass this bill and help us build a strong foundation for the Maine Cannabis market. The largest current agricultural commodity in the state.