

Eben Sumner
West Baldwin
LD 40

To the esteemed Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

I am Eben Sumner, a West Baldwin resident and owner of a cannabis medicine manufacturing and exporting business in Biddeford. As a board member of the Maine Craft Cannabis Association, the Cannabis Council of Maine, Seed2health Learning Health, and the Biddeford/Saco Chamber of Commerce, I offer my testimony in favor of LD 40: An Act to Amend the Cannabis Laws, alongside suggestions for enhancing its text. LD 40 marks a historic moment for cannabis policy in Maine and the United States, promising benefits for consumers, small businesses, and the movement to de-emphasize law enforcement's role in a legal, safe, and well-regulated industry.

The first section focuses on updates to the Medical Use program, aiming to clarify language and protect the rights of patients and medical caregivers. Amendments to definitions and enforcement mechanisms are proposed to ensure consistency and privacy rights for program participants.

The second section seeks to reform the restrictive nature of the Adult Use statute, advocating for a shift away from a punitive approach towards a more supportive regulatory framework. These reforms aim to promote small business access, eliminate stigma around cannabis use, and reshape the regulatory agency's role to facilitate industry growth.

The final section urges the inclusion of medical cannabis community members in the task force, recognizing the economic significance and therapeutic potential of medical cannabis. Emphasizing the need to prioritize economic growth in this sector, it underscores the importance of legislative support for both medical and adult use cannabis industries.

In conclusion, I express gratitude for the Legislature's ongoing support for Maine's cannabis industry. Passing LD 40 with minor adjustments will ensure the industry's long-term viability and benefit Maine residents for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Eben Sumner