

Written Testimony of Lani Graham, MD, MPH in opposition to LD 40

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Lani Graham. I live in Freeport. I am submitting this testimony against [LD 40](#), An Act to Amend Cannabis Laws or, as amended six days before this public hearing, An Act To Protect Liberty and Advance Justice in the Implementation, Administration and Enforcement of the Cannabis Legalization Act and To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Subcommittee on Non-substantive Changes to the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act. Here are my top concerns about this bill.

1. It represents **substantive changes** to current law, not non-substantive as it states. If substantive changes are needed, and they probably are, **rulemaking is indicated**. It is understandable that the **Cannabis industry needs guidance and needs to know where it stands on various issues, but not at the expense of the health of Maine people**.
2. It is **too lengthy to reasonably be considered at this time**. There are over 100 changes made. I was not able to stay for the hearing because the presenters took several hours just to present the bill. Even if these changes are non-substantive, there is always the potential for unintended consequences. **These changes deserve thought and discussion**.
3. **It was only a little over a year ago that President Biden signed into law the federal bill to allow real research in to the short- and long-term health effects of Cannabis.**¹ At present we really know very little about the health impacts of this substance. **One of the best examples of wide use of a substance prior to the proper research being done is tobacco**. And we see where that lead. The use of Cannabis for medical reasons and for recreation has increased dramatically in Maine in the less than 10 years since medical marijuana was legalized. In 2019 it was discovered that Maine was 3rd in the nation for adolescent and young adult use.² I doubt that use has decreased, but real research into the health impacts on the human body is in its infancy.
4. Cannabis has been found to have medical uses in addition to its recreational uses. This puts it in class by itself. Tobacco and alcohol don't have that status. And certainly, Cannabis is not a vitamin or health supplement. **Patients and recreational users alike deserve to know what's in the product they consume, but they don't**.

I hope the Committee will take the time to review all these issues and the many others included in LD 40. This is an activity that can be reasonably completed in this session. I urge not to pass on LD 40.

¹ <https://www.arnoldporter.com/en/perspectives/advisories/2022/12/medical-cannabis-research>

² https://wgme.com/news/local/study-maine-ranks-3rd-in-marijuana-use-among-teens-and-young-adults?fbclid=IwAR2ny9wiw2_D70dNOFx8-ipGmZjSwG6R30_8mr30wELFuL6V83rsN1tshMs#

