

March 6, 2024

Senator Craig Hickman, Chair  
Representative Laura Supica, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 40, 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

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on LD 40. My name is Robin Carr. I live and work in Bangor and am the parent of two young adults (ages 23 and 18) attending college in Maine. I'm a lifelong Mainer and by no means a prohibitionist. However, I am very much opposed to LD 40.

I have regular conversations with my kids about alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs. They are all geared toward making choices that support the lives they want to lead and avoid high risk situations as much as possible, all with the understanding that substances are part of our lives. One of my kids is a bartender at a local restaurant on the weekends. The other is a cashier at a large grocery store chain selling alcohol regularly. I have held several jobs serving/selling alcohol in Maine myself. For many years I've also worked in the nonprofit and public health world and learned a lot about the role laws play when it comes to avoiding problems with alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs. I know a good deal about Maine's alcohol laws and the Maine Liquor Liability Act, too as I have trained thousands of alcohol servers/sellers on Maine laws and safety practices over the years.

Through all these lenses, I'm extremely concerned about the changes to Maine's cannabis laws being proposed in this bill. I am also concerned about the lack of transparency, and lack of time to discuss and fully consider the implications. I understand the intention to achieve parity when it comes to alcohol and cannabis laws, and address perceived stigma of cannabis businesses but **LD 40 is not the answer.**

There are **many** common sense safeguards missing from this bill and some of the proposed changes run counter to all we know to be effective policy, such as onsite employee use and penalizing youth (to name a few).

Overall, the roll out of Maine's adult use cannabis program has appeared thoughtful and measured. Lawmakers and the Office of Cannabis Policy have done a lot of homework. They've asked experts, checked with other states, and tried to learn as much as they can in order to adopt balanced policies in Maine and avoid negative consequences. It's tough to know everything but I've noted good faith in trying to prevent unintended harm.

There will always be big industry at the table, with a loud voice advocating for their agenda. There will never be as much ability for teachers, youth, healthcare and social service providers, law enforcement, parents, and many other subject matter experts to participate in the process. This is where I hope our legislators will come in and help balance the equation, create the environment (and provide time) for diverse perspectives/voices to weigh in, and incorporate best practices when all is said and done. I do not see that in LD 40. It is not present in the proposed changes themselves (which are substantive), the packaging of this bill, or its timing to move through the process (**one week**).

It's hard for me to imagine who benefits - and what is being considered - aside from corporations and profits. And once we open some of these doors and walk through them, it will be nearly impossible to go back. Please do not pass LD 40.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

Robin Carr (she/her)  
Bangor, Maine