

Samantha Brown  
Liberate Maine Cannabis  
LD 40

Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

My name is Samantha Brown of South Berwick, mother of a child cannabis patient, and founder of Liberate Maine Cannabis.

Uncertain whether to testify for or neither for nor against, I ultimately support LD40 for its positive aspects, such as securing farmer's markets, protecting deliveries, and repealing the prohibition on collectives for caregivers. Others will cover these benefits I'm sure; my focus is on addressing troubling concerns that need rectification within my allotted time.

On Page 8 D4, the bill lacks privacy and confidentiality provisions for home-based caregivers, isolating them from necessary protections. Confidentiality clauses, vital for safeguarding against government targeting, exist for a reason.

Believe it or not, there are plenty of politicians at the municipal level, untrustworthy. The government's abundant history of fostering crony relationships is detrimental, OCP is a great example. This information may be used against caregivers in towns, resulting in unfavorable zoning and plans known only to specific stakeholders.

Similar arguments against confidentiality led to current municipality laws, and history warns us that this won't be enough next year. It's a form of gradualism. The positive elements in this bill become irrelevant if we increase government control in other areas, risking caregivers' business through different means, such as crony zoning ordinances.

Turning to prohibited acts by minors on Page 61. Penalties should not fall on minors; responsibility should fall on adults knowingly providing the access. The creation of more laws like penalizing minors for victimless crimes perpetuates stereotypes on a younger and less fortunate demographic further creating inequity, exposing these young individuals to a terrible start into adulthood. As a libertarian, I advocate against penalizing individuals for victimless crimes, particularly when it involves stereotyping a specific group of people.

Do not harm me, nor steal my stuff. Vandilization and theft are different issues as they involve a victim. I support crimes such as rectifications and community services.

Please refine this bill to align more closely with the principles of privacy, individual liberty, and fairness. Thank you.