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Senator Hickman and Representative Supica, and the whole Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, thank you for the chance to present to you LD 948, “An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis”

Medical cannabis growers, like all farmers, are essential to the well-being of our communities and deserve the same level of support and consideration as other agricultural producers. Expanding the canopy limits for medical cannabis growers is a logical and necessary step to ensure they can operate more efficiently and meet the growing needs of their patients. Currently, the cultivation limits for medical cannabis caregivers are far more restrictive compared to those for recreational cannabis growers, which creates a disparity that undermines the ability of caregivers to meet patient demand.

The proposed bill seeks to increase the allowable canopy to 1,000 square feet for mature cannabis plants and 2,000 square feet for immature plants, which will move medical cannabis cultivation closer to the licensing standards set for recreational cultivation. With these expanded limits, caregivers will be able to grow more plants, thus providing greater access to medical cannabis for patients. The changes will not only improve the quantity of the supply, but also the variety of the medicine available.

Additionally, extending the registration and license periods from one year to two years, and simplifying the renewal process for caregivers with no violations, will help reduce the administrative burden on small-scale farmers. These changes allow caregivers to focus on their crops and their patients rather than constantly navigating complex bureaucratic requirements.

In conclusion, growers of medical cannabis are farmers who play an integral role in the agricultural and healthcare sectors. By expanding the canopy limits and

providing more straightforward regulatory processes, this bill will help caregivers better compete with recreational licensees, ultimately ensuring that patients continue to have reliable access to the medicine they depend on. Supporting these caregivers is not only beneficial to them, but also to the larger community of medical cannabis users.

I will be followed by folks better able to answer questions, but I would be happy to answer any questions I am able. Thank you -