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I'm testifying against the passing of this bill. It will be a disaster to the businesses, employees, patients and communities which depend on the industry. I previously worked for a medical only dispensary in Pittsfield, MA that transitioned to a Medical+ Adult Use location as a budtender and as a member of the inventory team. Once we elected to transition into an adult use location and use METRC along with forced testing, our entire business changed. Medical patients became an afterthought, the quality of our products dropped tremendously while prices rose forcing medical patients to turn to the black market and out of state markets. METRC seemed like a good idea at first, but in actuality it made things worse for the business, the medical patients and the adult use customers as the amount of errors added up every day. There were days where we couldn't sell certain products, customers would have to wait hours until we could either figure out the issue or hear back from METRC, products were lost in METRC and were never found just to name a few examples. If METRC was more intuitive and user friendly, was fully fleshed out, fully staffed and didn't change daily then it would make sense, but in its current state it only costs businesses, patients and customers more money with no benefits. As far as testing goes, it only leads to result chasing and number inflating by the testing companies in order to gain more accounts and make more profits, as opposed to what it is supposed to achieve- transparency and proof that what you're consuming is safe. Testing also does not prove that what is being sold is safe as any plant medicine will continue to change the longer it sits. For example: during the vape scare we had to pull all of our cartridges that were for sale and have them retested for certain additives that were deemed harmful. After testing came back, some that had previously passed with flying colors were now failing due to metals leaking out of the atomizers slowly over time as opposed to the additives they were searching for. In regards to testing flower- it's not an accurate representation of the plant because you can't take a small sample size, test it and then expect those numbers to be exactly the same for every single piece of plant matter in that batch. That would be like taking a poll of 1000 people and using their answers as concrete proof. All testing does is inflate the cost of running a business which leads to higher prices, lower quality medicine and less available medicine for the patients who rely on it for their health. Large businesses and multi state operators are only interested in profits, which is why they have high turnover rates of employees, don't provide anything to the communities they're part of while expecting around the clock police protection and preferential treatment. I deal with a great amount of anxiety and use medical cannabis to help and if I didn't have access to it while traveling for work or vacation, I wouldn't be able to leave my house. The first time I went to Maine and was able to partake of their medical cannabis was truly eye opening towards the cannabis industry as a whole. The medicine was more affordable, tasted cleaner and helped with my health issues in a much more profound way. After asking some questions, it became apparent the reason was that there are a lot more small businesses that focus on the quality and health of their plants because they believe in their medicinal properties as opposed to someone who is growing to make as much money as they can on every transaction. As someone who has traveled all over the country and tried medical and adult use cannabis from different states, I can safely say Maine's medical program is the best in the nation as it currently stands and the proposed changes will ruin it, costing the businesses, the patients and the communities financial harm in the short and long term. I personally have not been making purchases through the Massachusetts medical program for many years since their quality of medicine is very poor and no longer helps with any of my health issues so I had to learn how to grow at home. Maine is the only place I can get my medicine when traveling that helps. Please save the Maine medical program.