

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is David Jolly and I reside in Penobscot. I worked for 35 years in public health. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1847 and LD 104.

It is unfathomable and unconscionable to me that the state of Maine does not require testing of medical cannabis for contaminants like heavy metals, pesticides, and mold. Some 30 states have medical marijuana programs, and Maine's is the only one without such a requirement. Furthermore, Maine law does require contaminant testing for recreational marijuana. How can cannabis used for medical purposes be exempted from a similar requirement?

In 2023, the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy released a report, *Harmful Contaminants in Maine's Medical Cannabis Program*. According to that report, 42% of the medical cannabis tested had at least one contaminant that would have failed testing in the Adult Use Cannabis Program. Don't patients using cannabis for medical purposes deserve to have the same confidence as recreational cannabis users that their products won't contain harmful substances?

The Office of Cannabis Policy reports that over 100,000 Mainers access cannabis through the medical program, including pediatric patients, who, at 18 years old, can access the program without parental permission. Another problem is that there is no limit on the potency of edible products in the medical cannabis program as there is in the adult use program. Higher potency cannabis can increase the risk of adverse reactions, especially among adolescents whose brains are not yet fully developed.

LD 1847 and LD 104 will ensure that medical cannabis is properly tested so patients know that the product they consume is free of contaminants and has an appropriate potency. This is important for all medical cannabis users but particularly for adolescent patients. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on both these bills.

Thank you.

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