

Daniel Donohue
Kennebunk and NYC
LD 104

My name is Daniel Donohue and I am writing to you in opposition of LD 104 and LD 1847 (and support of LD1897) from my apartment in Brooklyn, New York. While counter-intuitive at first read, a confluence of factors makes me greatly impacted by, and well-informed on, the proposed legislation that I write in opposition to.

As a life-long sufferer of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and generalized anxiety disorder, I have benefited from the medicinal effects of cannabis for the past fifteen years. Having lived in New York City for the past ten of those years, I have participated in and witnessed first-hand New York's sub-par medicinal cannabis market as well as the disastrous roll-out of (and pathetic attempt at) their adult use market. My parents relocated to Maine from Massachusetts, my native state, years ago, and so I am in the fortunate position to visit your lovely state quite often. On my estimate I spent nearly five figures in Maine's medicinal cannabis program in 2024 alone (thanks to state reciprocity in the medicinal program) for reasons that, with the passage of LD 104 and LD 1847, will cease to exist.

Due to prohibition, cannabis is overwhelmingly under-researched. I can tell you first-hand that the current state of medicinal and recreational testing in New York is actually detrimental to the medicinal benefit I receive from cannabis. This is due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to:

- 1) Unscientific testing guidelines/requirements which provide little value into the medicinal benefit I will receive from the specific strain/batch
- 2) Massively increased timeline from production to consumption which greatly decreases the quality of the medicine as well as the accuracy of the test itself
- 3) Legal, harmful (and even-less-studied) industry tactics utilized to circumvent the state testing apparatus
- 4) Massively increased supplier costs which has resulted in a wholly un-diverse supplier and product marketplace in which I am more often than not unable to find product that is of sufficient medicinal grade.

The money I spent in Maine didn't go to multi-state organizations with no ties to the local people or local government: it went to people I now call friends: it was recycled back into local Maine businesses and continued to generate tax revenue for the local municipalities and continued to make Maine what I feel is the greatest, and most American, state in America. It's the one state that I feel truly able to support small business; the one state I feel enabled to be an adult and shop with my brain and not be force-fed what to do. I think that everybody, regardless of their politics, will empathize with this emotion right now. With the passage of LD 104 and LD 1847, my money won't generate the state more tax revenue - it will decrease it, because it will be spent elsewhere, since I know what the state will turn into. The passage of LD1897 is something that will bring more of my money into the state, to continue to be recycled into the local community.

All of this isn't to say that Maine's current program is perfect, that there aren't any bad actors, or there isn't any room for improvement. But it IS to say that the the proposed legislation is based on ignorant science, rooted in questionable conflicts-of-interest between private and public actors (I work in Private Equity, so I think I'd know), and overall a terrible direction for the state of Maine both literally and philosophically.

You can discount me as an annoying New Yorker or Mass-hole, both of which I probably am, but don't discount the experience I have as a patient of ignorantly over-regulated medicinal markets.

Thank you.