

Nathan Purrington
Vacationland Cannabis
LD 104

Good evening,

My name is Nathan Purrington and I'm writing in regard to LD-104. As an assistant caregiver for over five years and a medical patient for even longer, I urge the committee to change this bill. As written, the bill will drastically hurt the Maine medical program, one I feel is amongst the best in the country.

Over the last half decade I've been privileged to work in and benefit from the Maine medical program. Like many others in the state I have a malady of ailments for which I use medical cannabis. From a lung cancanoid, gastroparesis, adhd, and a herniated s5/l1 disk in my back; medical cannabis, particularly flower and high dose edibles have allowed me to have a higher quality of life, whilst avoiding all pharmaceutical prescriptions for any of them.

Flower from our small batch, Maine based, hard working farmers has been a true life saver for myself and more patients of mine than I can count. Maine, historically, has been a haven for farmers; allowing them to make a living for their families from their hard work and dedication to a craft that is labor intensive and requires dedication most of us could only hope to possess in small bursts, let alone on a daily basis. Requiring these individuals to test every strain of every flower would prohibit them from being able to earn a living, and would mean patients like mine, and even myself, would be without the finely honed, small batch medicine we need to avoid being over medicated, as many of us have been in the past.

Aside from being a patient and assistant caregiver, I'm also a former Maine state educator, more particularly a history, government and economics teacher. Looking at this bill from an educators standpoint also concerns me. Change can be great, however, historically when change is done at the state level without input from those working within the industry it tends to benefit nobody that it was designed to protect. We realize that all humans are individual, and research shows that the human cannabinoid system benefits from the medical use of thc and cbd. Research also shows that humans metabolic rate and reaction to any medication is vast and varied. However, this bill would make affordable access to high dose medications from small, hard working Maine farmers virtually impossible to find. Medical access of any kind should not be something a Maine resident should ever have to worry about having to deal with. Because of our knowledge of the vast medical needs of individuals in Maine, let's not determine what medications are appropriate for them when they are capable of doing so for themselves.

Respectfully,

Nate Purrington
Budtender (Vacationland Cannabis)