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LD 1847

As a long time holder of a medical marijuana license and as someone that has worked in the industry, I vehemently oppose LD 1847 for two reasons.

1. the proposed testing solution is not an effective or efficient way to protect customers. Testing should be conducted on randomly selected samples provided to an OCP representative by retail locations to ensure product is safe to consume at the time of purchase. The proposed batch testing scheme is wasteful, incentivises dishonest testing practices by cultivators and worst of all, has no scientific foundation. Many of the contaminants tested for aren't hazardous to public health, and some hazardous contaminants aren't part of the test assays (PFOAS/PFAS).

Second, the financial burden of paying for wasteful and ineffective batch testing would immediately shutter the doors of most medical growers, depriving many patients from accessing cannabis they use to control, in many cases, life-threatening or altering diseases like epilepsy or chemotherapy related nausea.

Is contaminated medical weed an issue in Maine? Yes. Will this proposed bill solve the issue in a way that leaves the industry extant? No. The obvious solution is to mirror the type of testing and outreach performed by health inspectors on food service businesses. Allow people to report suspected unsafe weed to OCP and send out an inspector to do the work, like a serious regulatory agency would do. Combine this with random bi-yearly inspections performed on product at the point of sale and cannabis can be made both safe and easily accessible to the people that need it.