

corey laplante

LD 1847

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I'm Corey LaPlante, an advocate for Maine's medical cannabis patients and caregivers. I urge you to reject H.P. 1231, a bill that threatens to dismantle one of Maine's most successful programs, a major economic driver and a lifeline for cancer patients. The medical cannabis program is safe, effective, and vital, yet H.P. 1231's restrictive measures, modeled on a flawed adult-use system, risk its collapse.

Maine's Medical Cannabis Program.

A Patient Lifeline, legal since 1999, is a national model, serving 106,000 patients with high-potency medicine tailored to conditions like cancer. Small caregivers provide affordable, personalized products, ensuring access for low-income and rural Mainers. Economically, it's a powerhouse, supporting 1,799 caregivers, 64 dispensaries, and thousands of jobs, with cannabis sales (medical and adult-use) generating \$159 million in 2023 alone. The program's voluntary testing ensures safety, with no evidence of widespread patient harm, making it a proven success worth preserving.

H.P. 1231 Devastates Patients:

THC cap of 10 mg per serving and 200 mg per package is a death knell for cancer patients needing 100-1000 mg daily to manage pain and nausea. Forcing them to buy dozens of low-potency products spikes costs, pushing low-income patients toward the black market. Mandatory testing will further raise prices, unlike the current program's affordable model. The proposed tracking system risks supply delays, disrupting critical treatment for patients who can't wait. These measures render the medical program obsolete, betraying those fighting for their lives.

H.P. 1231 Crushes Caregivers:

Small caregivers, the program's backbone, face ruin under H.P. 1231's costly testing and tracking mandates. Unlike the current voluntary system, these requirements; plus the threat of registration loss for minor errors, could force caregivers out, consolidating the market in corporate hands. This reduces access to affordable, high-potency medicine, especially in rural areas, and harms small businesses that drive Maine's economy.

Adult-Use System's Failures :

H.P. 1231 wrongly adopts the adult-use program's testing and tracking, which OCP audits and recalls prove ineffective. In 2024, three adult-use recalls occurred after contaminated products (yeast, mold) reached shelves, despite mandatory testing, due to improper sampling and treatment. permitting growers to select their own testing samples for contaminants creates another clear conflict of interest, allowing them to manipulate results by choosing favorable samples, thus undermining safety standards. This system prioritizes regulatory appearances over genuine consumer protection. If the adult-use system can't keep tainted products out, why impose it on a medical program with no record of harm?

Preserve Maine's Success

H.P. 1231's THC caps, costly mandates, and failed adult-use model jeopardize this legacy, harming patients and caregivers. Instead, support a randomized 3rd party, point of sale testing program paid for by program registration fees, preserve high-potency options, and engage stakeholders to maintain a program that works. Protect Maine's patients, economy, and communities, reject H.P. 1231.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Corey LaPlante  
Portland, Maine