

Alex Costas
Stellas farm
LD 1847

I have participated in the medical program since 2012. Ld 1847 will do nothing but hurt the participants of this program the growers, retailers, and patients. Not only will it put farms out of business and increase patients cost it will not protect anybody as it claims to do. This bill stops innovation at the ground level. As a caregiver with passion for the plant and farming I try to diversify my crop and expand our genetic library that we offer to patients. The increase cost of this bill will make it impossible to allow genetic diversity in our gardens and in our medicinal offerings to patients. Not only is that unfair to the patients of this program it's puts the farms at risk. Taking away genetic diversity will lead to greater chances of disease, contamination, and failure in the garden. By stopping innovation, increasing cost, failing to protect patients ld 1847 will ruin the industry we have work so hard to create.

We already have SOP's in place for tracking/documentation and to maintain cleanliness, and quality. Adding this excessive tracking will take out time away from the plant causing quality to drop and cost to increase. We've seen this type of tracking and expensive testing fail in this state and many others. Don't allow this to ruin our medical program in Maine.