

Mitchell McDonald
Waterville
LD 104

My name is Mitchell McDonald, and I am a concerned medical cannabis patient from Waterville, Maine. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to LD 104.

On its surface, LD 104 appears to prioritize patient safety—a goal I deeply share. However, the implementation of mandatory testing across the entire medical cannabis market would have devastating consequences for the very patients and small caregivers the program was built to serve.

Let me be clear: this bill threatens access, affordability, and survival.

1. Patient Access Will Suffer

Unlike Maine's adult-use market, medical cannabis patients often rely on small-scale caregivers—many of whom grow clean, organic, small-batch medicine tailored to individual needs. These operations cannot afford the fees, delays, or infrastructure required for mandatory testing. LD 104, if passed, would force many of these caregivers out of business, reducing patient options and creating de facto monopolies. This is not regulation—it's consolidation.

2. Testing Costs Are Prohibitive

Testing a single batch of flower, concentrate, or edible can cost hundreds of dollars. That cost will be passed onto the patient. In an already strained healthcare landscape, this bill turns medicine into a luxury. We will be telling veterans, cancer patients, and those with chronic illnesses that unless they can afford a lab fee, their medicine is "unsafe." That's a slap in the face to the communities that built Maine's compassionate program from the ground up.

3. Maine's Medical Cannabis Program Already Works

We are not operating in a regulatory vacuum. Maine's caregivers are already held to high standards. They work in close contact with their patients. Unlike commercial dispensaries, these caregivers know exactly who they are growing for, and why. The trust and transparency in those relationships are not problems in need of a legislative solution.

4. One Size Does Not Fit All

LD 104 attempts to mirror adult-use regulations in a medical context. This is both inappropriate and dangerous. Medical cannabis patients are not recreational users. Their needs are more specific. Their margins are thinner. Their medicine should not be subjected to commercial bottlenecks.

5. There Are Better Alternatives

If the goal is to improve safety, let's fund voluntary testing programs, incentivize compliance, and provide education and transparency without killing the small caregiver model. Let's improve, not destroy.

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In conclusion, I urge you to listen to the voices of patients and caregivers who have trusted and benefited from Maine's medical cannabis program for years. LD 104 will not protect them—it will punish them.

Please vote NO on LD 104.

Respectfully,
Mitchell McDonald
Waterville, Maine