

Mitchell McDonald
Waterville
LD 1847

To the Honorable Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:

My name is Mitchell McDonald, and I am a medical cannabis patient residing in Waterville, Maine. I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1847.

While I understand the intent behind aligning medical cannabis regulations with those of the adult-use market, this bill poses significant challenges for patients like myself who rely on affordable and accessible medical cannabis.

1. Increased Costs and Reduced Access:

Mandatory testing and tracking requirements will inevitably lead to higher operational costs for caregivers. These costs will be passed down to patients, making medical cannabis less affordable. For many, including myself, this could mean the difference between accessing necessary medicine and going without.

2. Threat to Small-Scale Caregivers:

Many patients depend on small, local caregivers who provide personalized care. The financial and administrative burdens imposed by this bill could force these caregivers out of the market, leaving patients with fewer options and disrupting the trusted relationships we've built.

3. Unnecessary Redundancy:

The medical cannabis community in Maine has operated safely and effectively under the current system. Introducing redundant testing and tracking measures duplicates efforts and resources without clear evidence of improved safety or efficacy.

4. Potential for Reduced Quality of Care:

Overregulation may shift the focus from patient-centered care to compliance-centric operations. This shift could compromise the quality of care and attention patients receive from their caregivers.

In conclusion, while ensuring the safety and quality of medical cannabis is paramount, LD 1847 introduces measures that may do more harm than good. I urge you to consider the unintended consequences this bill could have on patients and caregivers alike.

Please vote NO on LD 1847.

Respectfully,
Mitchell McDonald
Waterville, Maine