

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am against the passing of **LD 104**, "An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis," due to the disproportionate burdens it places on local caregivers and its potential to harm patients.

Why LD 104 Should Be Opposed:

- **Unfair Burden on Local Caregivers:** Mandatory testing imposes significant fees. Unlike large corporations, local caregivers cannot afford remediation machines and expensive testing; the associated costs will jeopardize their ability to operate.
- **Increased Operational Complexity:** Daily reporting through state-mandated tracking systems demands costly software and training, diverting resources from patient care.
- **Public Health Risks:** Caregiver closures due to increased costs and complexity will reduce access to local, affordable, safe, and personalized medical cannabis, increasing costs and limiting options for patients.
- **Barriers to Entry:** Licensing and registration requirements favor large corporate entities over small-scale local operations, worsening inequities in the industry.

Maine's medical cannabis program thrives because of its community-based caregivers. These caregivers provide safe, affordable, and high-quality care for patients. LD 104, as written, jeopardizes their future and the essential services they provide to patients, and contradicts the state's commitment to equitable and patient-centered care.

I urge you to reject this bill and instead support policies that balance public health with economic sustainability, while protecting Maine's local cannabis caregivers and patients.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Muskie
Saco, Maine