

Robert Polizzotti
Woodstock
LD 104

Dear Members of the Maine Legislature,

My name is Rob Polizzotti, and I am a resident of Woodstock. I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 104, which proposes significant changes to the state's medical cannabis laws. As a patient, I believe that the provisions in this bill would negatively impact patients and local businesses and limit access to the essential care that many individuals, including myself, rely on.

LD 104 proposes changes to the regulations surrounding medical cannabis dispensaries, patient access, and caregiver cultivation. While the intent may be to create stricter oversight, I believe that the bill fails to consider the real-world consequences for patients and businesses in Maine. Specifically, I am concerned about the following points:

Restricted Access to Medical Cannabis:

The proposed regulations would create unnecessary barriers for patients in need of medical cannabis. By imposing additional bureaucratic requirements, LD 104 could make it harder for patients to access the medicine they depend on for pain relief, mental health management, and other qualifying conditions. For many patients, medical cannabis is not just a treatment option—it's a critical part of their healthcare plan, and any reduction in access could have severe consequences.

Increased Costs for Patients:

The bill introduces measures that would likely increase the cost of medical cannabis for patients. Forcing METRC would force dispensaries to increase their prices. This would place an undue burden on low-income patients and seniors who already struggle with the cost of healthcare in Maine. Increased costs could make medical cannabis unaffordable for many who rely on it as a safer and more effective alternative to prescription medications.

Harm to Local Businesses:

Maine's medical cannabis industry provides jobs and contributes significantly to the local economy. The changes proposed in LD 104 could place additional burdens on dispensaries and caregivers, particularly small, local businesses that may struggle to comply with new regulations or afford new licensing fees. Rather than supporting these small businesses, this bill could create an environment that favors larger corporate operations and stifles local entrepreneurship.

Undue Burden on Caregivers:

The bill imposes new regulations on caregivers who provide critical services to patients by growing cannabis in their homes. By [describe specific burdens placed on caregivers in the bill, such as tighter limits on cultivation, additional reporting requirements, or restrictions on how they distribute cannabis], this bill undermines the ability of caregivers to serve patients effectively and could reduce the supply of medical cannabis for those who rely on homegrown medicine.

Thank you for your time