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Warren
LD 1840
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Testimony in Support of An Act To Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act
Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint
Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

My name is Arleigh Kraus, and I am writing in support of this bill to amend the
Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act. As someone who is deeply invested in the
integrity, accessibility, and sustainability of Maine's medical cannabis program, I
believe this legislation is a much-needed step toward protecting patients, caregivers,
and the foundational principles of the voter-approved program.

This bill advances a more patient- and caregiver-centered approach by:

Clarifying Retail Operations – By clearly distinguishing between caregiver retail
stores and private consultation offices, the bill affirms transparency and public
accessibility while safeguarding the rights of caregivers to operate in a variety of
settings. This clarity helps both patients and municipalities better understand where
and how legal medical cannabis commerce is occurring.

Restoring Flexibility and Limiting Administrative Overreach – The prohibition on
mandatory use of department-issued forms and unauthorized guidance documents
respects the statutory boundaries placed on regulators. This provision empowers
caregivers and operators to comply with the law without being burdened by arbitrary
or inconsistent administrative mandates.

Respecting the Volunteer Spirit of Caregiving – Repealing the provision allowing
monetary compensation for cultivation costs aligns with the original intent of Maine's
medical cannabis program: to prioritize patients' access to affordable medicine
through trusted caregiver relationships.

Expanding Access and Economic Opportunity – By allowing caregivers to sell
products at trade shows, festivals, and via delivery or private arrangement, this bill
recognizes the evolving needs of patients and the importance of community-based
cannabis education and access.

Ensuring Safe Extraction Practices – Restricting hazardous extraction methods to
qualified and registered entities enhances public safety without creating unnecessary
bureaucratic barriers for those who are already licensed and accountable.

Protecting Privacy and Security – Limiting the public disclosure of caregiver
addresses and other nonconfidential information is a reasonable step to protect
personal privacy and prevent potential targeting of caregivers, their patients, and their
property.

Respecting Local Authority and Correcting Past Injustices – Removing unnecessary
bureaucratic hurdles related to municipal approval and restoring operational status to
affected businesses helps correct a pattern of regulatory overreach that has hindered
lawful operators and disrupted patient access.

Enhancing Transparency – Requiring gross sales data in annual reporting will help
policymakers make informed decisions while maintaining accountability and
transparency in the program.

Supporting Scientific Advancement – Mandating the timely implementation of the

medical cannabis research grant program reflects a proactive and evidence-based commitment to improving care and understanding of medical cannabis therapies.

In sum, this bill reflects a thoughtful, balanced, and urgently needed recalibration of Maine's medical cannabis regulatory framework. It empowers caregivers, protects patients, restrains bureaucratic overreach, and reaffirms the will of Maine voters. I respectfully urge the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Arleigh Kraus