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The implementation of a track-and-trace system within Maine's medical cannabis industry presents significant challenges. We have observed the detrimental effects of such a system in the recreational sector, including increased operational costs, bureaucratic complexities, and the subsequent financial burden placed on consumers. It is imperative that we avoid replicating these issues within the medical framework, where patient access and affordability are of the utmost importance.

The introduction of track-and-trace into medical cannabis would not only inflate the cost of medicine but also create unnecessary obstacles for patients and caregivers. In many cases pushing caregivers out of the industry completely, sometimes bankrupting them. To add insult to injury, This additional layer of regulation does not enhance safety or quality but rather impedes the efficient delivery of essential healthcare. We must prioritize a system that ensures affordable and accessible medical cannabis for those who rely on it for their well-being.

Furthermore, the tracking of delivery vehicles poses a serious security risk. The potential for hacking and the vulnerability of drivers transporting valuable products cannot be overlooked. We must consider the safety implications for all stakeholders involved. Therefore, I urge the legislature to consider alternative solutions that prioritize patient welfare and industry sustainability, without compromising the safety of those involved in the distribution process.

Thank you