

Mikael Morancy  
Kittery  
LD 1847

Dear Esteemed Members of Maine's Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I'm submitting testimony digitally in lieu of remaining in Augusta to maintain my active business. I had to head back South from the Capital to Kittery but I'd still like to specifically address the rising costs of medical cannabis for patients in Maine, especially veterans and those in various phases of palliative care.

First, bills LD 104 and LD 1847, if passed, will require additional testing and regulatory alignment. This increases production costs, which are passed directly to patients. Aligning the medical market with the adult use market is counter to what makes Maine cannabis arguably the best state for cannabis nationally, it's because of both not in spite of either.

Second, federal tariffs on imported cultivation equipment, packaging & other imported needs are already driving up prices, adding another layer of expense to medical cannabis... With the future only being less predictable on that front.

Third, IRS Code 280E prevents cannabis businesses from deducting normal expenses, resulting in tax rates up to 70%. This tax burden further raises costs for patients and is something that dramatically hampers all aspects of current business operations.

The impact is severe for vulnerable groups. Veterans and patients in critical care rely on specific medical cannabis products not found in the adult use market. For example, a patient's spending on a specific product that currently safely provides relief could see that cost rise substantially. A devastating hit for those on fixed incomes. When patients can't afford their medicine, they may face ineffective alternatives or suffer without relief, risking more hospitalizations and a lower quality of life.

I urge the committee to oppose these bills and push for solutions like state subsidies, tariff exemptions, or other financial reforms reducing these burdens. Our veterans, patients & especially those in end-of-life care deserve affordable access to the medicine they need.

Thank you.  
Mikael Morancy  
Kittery, Maine