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Clinton
LD 104

****Testimony in Opposition to LD 104****

Presented to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Date: 5-5-2025

Submitted by: Nicholas Duperry

****Chairperson and Members of the Committee,****

I am writing today in firm opposition to LD 104, a bill that, if enacted, would have devastating consequences for Maine's medical cannabis community—affecting small businesses, employees, farmers, patients, and entire communities across the state. This bill introduces unnecessary regulatory burdens that will cripple an industry that so many Mainers rely on for their livelihoods and essential medicine.

Medical cannabis is more than just an industry—it is a vital resource for patients managing chronic conditions such as PTSD, cancer, and severe pain. The additional compliance costs and restrictions proposed in LD 104 threaten to drive small, family-run businesses into financial ruin, forcing closures, layoffs, and economic instability. These small caregivers have been the backbone of patient-centered care, providing affordable and accessible medicine tailored to individual needs. Burdening them with excessive regulations will leave patients with fewer options and higher costs, forcing many to seek dangerous or less effective alternatives.

Beyond its direct impact on caregivers and patients, LD 104 could devastate Maine's agricultural sector, especially in rural areas where cannabis cultivation has become an essential economic driver. Many farmers depend on this crop for their livelihood, and stripping them of this opportunity through bureaucratic overreach will have lasting consequences on local economies.

Maine's medical cannabis program has thrived under a community-driven model that balances patient care, responsible cultivation, and economic growth. LD 104 threatens to undo that progress, prioritizing industry consolidation over the well-being of Maine's citizens. I urge lawmakers to listen to the voices of patients, caregivers, and small business owners who will suffer under these misguided regulations. Please reject LD 104 and protect Maine's medical cannabis program from unnecessary harm.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Duperry