



CITY OF BANGOR

Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

May 5, 2025

Testimony in Support of:

LD 104: An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis

LD 1847: An Act to Institute Testing and Tracking of Medical Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products Similar to Adult Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products, Dedicate a Portion of the Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax to Medical Use Cannabis Programs and Create a Study Group

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Jamie Comstock. I am the Health Promotion Manager at the City of Bangor's Public Health and Community Services Department. I am providing testimony in support of LDs 104 and 1847 on behalf of the city of Bangor.

I am an advanced certified prevention specialist and served as a prevention stakeholder on the Office of Cannabis Policy's Medical Marijuana Workgroup in 2021 and Cannabis Hospitality Task Force in 2024.

I've been in my position since 2007, well before the medical or retail cannabis markets emerged in Maine, and have a comprehensive understanding of programs operating in other states.

Maine's Medical Cannabis Program falls significantly short of national safety and transparency benchmarks. Unlike more than 30 other states with medical cannabis programs, Maine is the only one that does not mandate testing for harmful substances such as heavy metals, pesticides, or mold. A 2023 report from the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy, *Harmful Contaminants in Maine's Medical Cannabis Program*, revealed that 42% of medical cannabis samples contained at least one contaminant that would not pass the standards required in the state's Adult Use Cannabis Program.

The absence of proper oversight is a disservice to the thousands of individuals who rely on medical cannabis, including children. They deserve the assurance that the products they use to manage health conditions are safe and free from harmful contaminants.



CITY OF BANGOR

We also need policies to protect youth from high-potency products that pediatricians, psychiatrists, and other professionals working with youth in all capacities believe to be associated with increased rates of mental illness (The New York Times, As America's Marijuana Use Grows, So Do The Harms). We hear similar concerns from our own community partners, yet more than 60% of Maine high schoolers believe there is little to no risk of using cannabis once or twice a week (2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey Data).

. LD 1847 proposes to address this by:

- Establishing a maximum potency of THC in edible products in the Medical Cannabis Program similar to what's already in place in the Adult Use Program.
- Forming a study group to examine youth cannabis use and evidence-based ways to prevent and reduce high-risk use.
- Diverting a portion of the current Adult Use cannabis taxes toward public health and safety awareness and education.
- Requiring that edible gummies sold in the Adult Use Program that aren't stamped or embossed with the Universal Symbol be sold in blister packaging to reduce the risk of accidental ingestion.

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1847 and LD 104 to improve safety and transparency in Maine's cannabis programs. These long-overdue reforms are essential.

Thank you.

Jamie Comstock, MURP, PS-A

Jamie Comstock, Health Promotion Manager; jamie.comstock@bangormaine.gov; 207-992-4466

Jennifer Gunderman, Director, Bangor Public Health and Community Services; jennifer.gunderman@bangormaine.gov; 207-992-4550

Cara Pelletier, Council Chair, cara.pelletier@bangormaine.gov