

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

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

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee of Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

NAMI Maine is the state's largest grassroots mental health advocacy organization. We wish to express our support for LD 1847; to establish standardized tracking and testing for both medicinal and adult-use cannabis as well as a formal research study to ensure appropriate protection young people in our state.

NAMI Maine strongly believes that each person's journey to wellness involves individual choice. However, there have been several case-controlled studies in which a significant link between early cannabis use and the onset of symptoms of psychosis.¹ Additional research has linked the frequency in which a young person consumes cannabis, as well as high-potency cannabis, to a strong correlation in the development of psychosis.² Unlike other medications that face testing and trials in order to minimize side effects, there is no regulation for cannabis. Typically, clinical trials through the FDA regulation process require proof of clinical efficacy and safety through numerous federal laws and guidelines.³ In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted adverse reactions are linked to a higher potency THC level, particularly for young people with still have developing brains.⁴

NAMI Maine continues to support the mental health and well-being of individuals, however there is limited research and regulations regarding cannabis interventions. Without federal testing, guidelines, and/or recommendations, we encourage continued research on the impacts of cannabis use, particularly for our youngest Mainers. Because of this, NAMI Maine supports the passage of LD 1847.

ABOUT NAMI MAINE: Founded in 1984, NAMI Maine is the state's leading mental health advocacy organization. We partner with leaders and community organizations to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness through advocacy, education, and support.

¹ [A systematic evidence map of the association between cannabis use and psychosis-related outcomes across the psychosis continuum: An umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses - ScienceDirect](#)

² [Factors Moderating the Association between Cannabis Use and Psychosis Risk: A Systematic Review](#)

³ [FDA Perspectives on Pediatric Health | FDA](#)

⁴ [Cannabis and Teens | Cannabis and Public Health | CDC](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

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POSITIONS & POLICY AGENDA

www.namimaine.org/advocacy