

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on LD 1847.

While flawed/imperfect, I write in support of this bill as it prioritizes public safety through mandatory testing and tracking in Maine's medical cannabis program. It is fundamentally backwards that adult-use cannabis sold for recreational purposes is subject to stricter testing and tracking requirements than cannabis that is sold and marketed as medicine. If any products should meet the highest safety standards, it is those intended for patients - many of whom are immunocompromised or managing chronic and serious health conditions.

Recent "patient advisories" (as "recalls" do not exist in med statute which is in and of itself an entirely separate issue) in the state's medical cannabis market demonstrate that rigorous testing and tracking are needed to actively prevent unsafe products from reaching consumers. Exposure to these dangerous products could have been avoided had testing requirements been in place. Even within the highly regulated adult-use market, recalls have been issued for products containing unsafe levels of mold, microbes, heavy metals, and other contaminants. These recalls prove that testing works, and that without it, contaminated products would have reached the public. There is no defensible reason why medical patients should receive *less* protection.

Beyond testing, comprehensive tracking systems are critical for consumer safety and regulatory integrity. Seed-to-sale tracking helps prevent diversion, identify illicit grows, and ensures accountability throughout the supply chain. Tracking also allows regulators to act quickly when unsafe products are identified, minimizing harm.

Furthermore, I do not see any meaningful benefit in creating a study group at this stage. Time and efforts would be better spent on implementing and enforcing testing and tracking requirements now, rather than delaying action through further study. A study group was previously established under LD 40, and that process seemingly did not result in meaningful action. We should learn from that experience.

Consumer and patient safety should not be sacrificed for cost or convenience. Establishing consistent testing and tracking standards across both medical and adult-use cannabis is a necessary and overdue step to protect Maine medical cannabis patients and uphold public health.

Thank you for your consideration.
Gina
Falmouth, Maine