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LD

(HP625)

978

**An Act to Maintain Legislative Oversight of the
Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program by
Requiring Major Substantive Rulemaking**

SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF LD 978

Good day Chair Senator Hickman and Chair Rep. Supica and other
respected VLA members

My name is Derek Shirley. I live in Gray, Maine. I am a cannabis medical
patient and a proud cannabis felon for four ounces of flower, and I'm here
today to speak in favor of LD 978.

Today, I want to talk to you about the LD 978 "An Act to Maintain Legislative
Oversight of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program by Requiring Major
Substantive Rulemaking" and why it means we can defund the Office of
Cannabis Policy.

Firstly, let me say that the cannabis industry in Maine has been growing
rapidly, and IF we need to make sure that it is effectively regulated (with
protecting small businesses and patient access in mind first) we also need to
ensure that our tax dollars are being used efficiently.

LD 978 "An Act to Maintain Legislative Oversight of the Maine Medical Use of
Cannabis Program by Requiring Major Substantive Rulemaking" ensures that
the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program is transparent, accountable,
and effectively regulated. By requiring major substantive rulemaking, any
significant changes or updates to the program's rules must be approved by
the Legislature. This ensures that the program remains transparent and
accountable, allowing for more effective oversight by our elected
representatives.

Now, some might argue that we need the Office of Cannabis Policy to
oversee the implementation of this act. However, I believe that this is
unnecessary. The Legislature, through its committees, can effectively oversee
the implementation of this act and ensure that the Maine Medical Use of

Program is effectively regulated to preserve small businesses and to protect them from billionaire behemoths.

This means that the Office of Cannabis Policy can be defunded, and the money saved can be used for more critical areas, such as education, healthcare, and actual public safety matters

Defunding the office of cannabis policy does not mean that we are neglecting the regulation of the cannabis industry. On the contrary, the "An Act to Maintain Legislative Oversight of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program by Requiring Major Substantive Rulemaking" ensures that the industry is effectively regulated while also promoting transparency, accountability, and competition. We have issues with OCP making regulations, we have issues with OCP's inspectors as I know you have seen emails about. When is enough enough? All due respect to the new director, but a new director can't fix the systematic problem that has become OCP.. We need to defund OCP.

In conclusion, LD 978 "An Act to Maintain Legislative Oversight of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program by Requiring Major Substantive Rulemaking" is a critical piece of legislation for the regulation of the cannabis industry in Maine. It promotes transparency, accountability, and competition while streamlining the process for future cannabis regulations. Defunding the office of cannabis policy is a reasonable step towards using our tax dollars efficiently, while ensuring that the cannabis industry is effectively regulated by regular farmers and actual industry stakeholders and not a select few in a "cool" club.

Thank you for your time!

I'm a person, not a party

Derek J. Shirley