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Representative Laura Supica introducing
LD 1530, An Act to Support Patients by Permitting On-site Consumption of Medical Cannabis and Medical Cannabis Products
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman and fellow members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, I am Representative Laura Supica and I am honored to represent part of Bangor here in the Maine Legislature. I am here today to present **LD 1530, An Act to Support Patients by Permitting On-site Consumption of Medical Cannabis and Medical Cannabis Products.**

This bill would allow for the on-site consumption of harvested cannabis for medical use by a qualifying patient in a caregiver retail store, in a registered dispensary or with a registered caregiver. Currently, consumption for medical use is not permitted in these spaces. Just because you can buy cannabis safely does not necessarily mean that you can consume it safely at will. Many medical patients are unable to legally consume at their homes or in public. That's why, more and more states are exploring options for safe and discrete consumption for medical patients in designated locations.

For medical cannabis patients coming from out of state, there is no specific location for them to consume, either. The state has a responsibility to provide a legal, safe space for folks to be able to consume cannabis.

Smoking indoors is currently prohibited and this would not conflict with that existing law. The bill directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to establish, through rulemaking, a process for issuing permits for on-site consumption.

This will be incredibly impactful for folks all across our state whose lives are significantly improved by access to this treatment. Not only will this bill make accessing this needed medication less burdensome for those who have a prescription, it will also mean that there will likely be fewer instances of people consuming cannabis in spaces that are less desirable.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill. I'm happy to take any questions you may have.