

Susan Meehan
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In support of Id 1530 on-site consumption medical cannabis

Senator Hickman and Representative Supica and honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, good morning and thank you for hosting this hearing.

Non-combustible consumption ought be legal basically anywhere in Maine. What harm is a qualifying patient or the parent of a minor qualifying patient doing by administration of their oral or nasal or nebulizer type medicine? While there is no compromise to public safety by allowing a patient to use their non-combustible medicine where needed, there is potential harm to the patient by not being able to take their medicine as needed. There is potential harm to the patient who must sneak down a dark alley in Portland or hide in their own vehicle to take their medicine or delay necessary treatment with their medicine to comply with war on drugs based laws.

To my knowledge, Cyndimae was the first person to use thc as a rescue formulation for an impending or occurring seizure. In 2015, based on this need and the needs of other minor qualifying patients, Maine's legislature, in a veto over ride authorized administration of medical cannabis on school grounds. With mama by her side, Cyndimae glowed with an ear to ear smile proudly walking into Cony High School making history as the first student to attend school with her cannabis based medicine legally by her side on October 15th, 2015.

Combustible and non-combustible medical cannabis ought be allowed on-site at bars or social clubs that have an approved outdoor or open air consumption area and clearly advertise this designation. This is like the elephant in the room – we know people are consuming their medicine, we give them a card to make this legal, but we do not provide legal venues by which to do this and instead host the prohibition style speakeasy of don't ask and don't tell. Let's let our program grow up and come out of hiding. Please deem Id 1530 ought to pass. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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