

Good afternoon Chairperson Hickman and Chairperson Supica and honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Susan Meehan, and I am a registry identification cardholder who has been involved in Maine cannabis since 2013 as advocate, caregiver, consultant, formulator, patient, and parent of a patient – the late Cyndimae Meehan. My passion to protect the program stems from my daughter's valiant battle against Dravet Syndrome Epilepsy and how much cannabis helped her to live, love and laugh and enjoy her last 3 years with us in our Maine home sledding the hills and swimming in the cold mountain streams..

I am testifying in favor of LD1691, An Act to Provide Parity in State Energy Rate Relief Payments and Tax Exemptions for Maine Cannabis Businesses.

This industry carried Maine through the pandemic. We were ordered to keep our doors open as "essential businesses," We did. Yet, we do not qualify for any assistance ever – no small business assistance, no federally funded assistance... The industry barely has access to banking. Please fix this also.

Please be mindful of creating meaningful and sensible laws from which meaningful and sensible rules can be derived. Thank you for your time and attention to this very important legal market in Maine.