The Healing Community

MEDCo

April 18th, 2023

To: **Senator Hickman. Representative Supica, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans & Legal Affairs**

From: **Alex McMahan**
Lewiston, Maine 04240

Subject: Support of LD 1757

I'm here today to testify in support of LD 1757.

I think the legislature has heard enough throughout the session about the shortcomings of Metrc to be well aware that the software has been a failure for our industry here in Maine.

Last week, Director Hudak listed the two reasons why he believes tracking to be necessary; and I quote: "It's critical that each batch of cannabis items be tracked separately to: 1) ensure that all mandatory testing has been conducted on each batch of cannabis or cannabis products, and 2) to maintain OCP's ability to implement targeted recalls of contaminated cannabis or cannabis products."

We'll address each of those, however I actually believe it goes a little further than that. Yes tracking is designed to ensure that all mandatory testing is taking place. However, it is also designed to prevent diversion. There's an elephant in the room that in reality it also tracks taxable revenue. Tracing is designed to allow for the recall of tainted products from the market. Now that we've named all the reasons for tracking and tracing, let's tackle them one by one.

Recalls are simple. We do it the way every other industry does it. This can be accomplished with very simple language in statute. One line of statute requiring every product to have a batch number generated by the licensee, and another line of statute requiring operators to maintain clear records of their batch numbers. Traceability is quite literally that simple, as evidenced by every other industry in the state.

Next is the ability to ensure that all mandatory testing is taking place. This one is also simple. Replace mandatory testing with audit testing. Again, just like every other industry (no need to reinvent the wheel, right?). As simple as that, the testing component of tracking is solved.

Let's move on to the tracking of taxable sales. For one, this isn't OCP's jurisdiction, it's MRS's. I know OCP has never claimed it to be their jurisdiction or that it's a priority, I'm just addressing the elephant in the room. This one is also simple. We're not criminals. We don't need any additional measures in place to track our taxable sales. Like every other industry, we can be
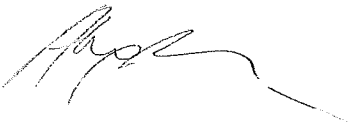
trusted to submit accurate figures to MRS, and if there's ever any suspicious activity or a discrepancy, MRS will audit us, just like every other industry.

Finally, diversion. First I'd like to point out that adult use operators are voluntarily regulated. We could all be fully operating in the medical sector completely without tracking and tracing. Many of us are operating in both, and we all love medical and see strong value in the program. My point is that if an operator were trying to divert product, it is extremely unlikely that they would choose to be in the adult use sector instead of the medical sector. Plus, everybody already knows Metrc doesn't prevent diversion anyway. The previous director of the program ever admitted it. Any operator who would be willing to divert product, which we've already established to be highly unlikely, would be able to do so even with Metrc in place. With that being the case, Metrc becomes entirely pointless. LD 1757 addresses this beautifully. Require us to submit data into a simple state portal. No need to pay massive amounts of money, it can literally just be a Google Form within Google Drive. Who's taking what to who, when and where. And guess what, if we divert from the information we've submitted, well then that's illegal.

I'm sure you've noticed my theme. Do everything like every other industry does. Simplify. Circular wheels, not dodecahedrons. We're not criminals. We can be trusted to the same extent as every other industry. It's time for Metrc's reign in Maine to come to an end. VLA, please deliver the Metrc killshot.

Sincerely,

Alex McMahan
The Healing Community MEDCo