

Good Day,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Amy McFarland.

I am a patient, medical cannabis farmer and the Co-Director of Liberate Maine Cannabis.  
(A grassroots political action committee.)

Today I am testifying in opposition to LD 1517.

“An Act to Create Equity in the State’s Cannabis Industry”

It is not the State’s responsibility to: offer assistance for regulatory compliance, real estate, and other contracting, safety and security consulting, and business and financial planning.

Allocating tax dollars towards a cannabis equity fund goes directly against a free market. Economic equity is not possible in a free market as people have different sets of skills and levels of ambition, not everyone will thrive.

Next, under “Eligibility Criteria” it states, “Persons from historically disinvested communities, as determined based on criteria established by the authority”.

Who is the authority?

Why wasn’t this already defined within the bill?

Now, I did find a bill with similar language.

It is LD 1274, “An Act to Increase Land Access for Historically Disadvantaged Populations”.

Within LD 1274, under *Chapter 10 E* it states “Black Farmer Restoration Program Act”.

One can only assume this is also the intended definition for LD 1517 too.

Last year the Supreme Court reversed Affirmative Action.

Affirmative Action, as defined by The American Heritage Dictionary, is “A policy of making active efforts to improve the employment or educational opportunities available to members of minority groups or women; achieved by employers or schools by using various techniques.

With that said, I ask you all to vote “Ought Not to Pass”.

Thank you for your time,

Amy McFarland

Liberate Maine Cannabis  
Co-Director