

Honorable Chairperson Senator Craig Hickman, Honorable Chairperson Representative Laura Supica, and the entire honorable Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Scotty Ouellette. I support LD 2147. I have operated a small, legal business in Maine's legal cannabis markets for about 10 years, often helping veterans and parents of children obtain clean, safe, affordable medicine. I operate a licensed manufacturing laboratory and hold a caregiver license.

In both markets, our child-resistant packaging protects children and pets when consumers fail to keep these products from them. No level of child resistance can stop a determined child or a determined pet – much of this falls to responsible parenting and responsible pet-ownership. No system can replace these priceless tools, but mistakes will be made. Triangles on a fruit chew will prevent no child or pet from consuming a good tasting treat. There is no adequate substitute for responsibility.

There are so many more toxic substances that harm our children and pets that have no child resistant packaging, and certainly no embossed all protecting magical symbols. Cigarettes, glue, lotion, rubbing alcohol, antifreeze, gasoline, children's vitamins, nicotine vape juice, for example – all of these can kill a child or a pet that eats them. A triangle and the acronym THC protects no one from anything. We do not believe that this symbol magically offers some kind of protection to anyone.

Based on this symbol embossment issue, 20 products in my small business's product line will not qualify for sales on the AU market due to the requirement of this embossed symbol. If OCP inspectors had their way, they would not be sold on the medical market either. Monthly, this is approximately \$20 to \$60k in lost tax-generating revenues. If OCP had their way, this would be mistakenly required on my medical product line. Ditch the symbol. It protects no one. Subjectivity of approval is highlighted in the photos of product included with my testimony. The goal post moves no matter what hoops my company jumps through for OCP. Rather than operating based upon clearly provided standards and measurable goals, OCP moves the goal posts daily, and the industry's thousands of small businesses, employing thousands of Maine citizens – we contest. Defund OCP's Director's paycheck please. The director uses his position's social media outlets to demonize the very program that pays his paycheck.

Please send LD2147 to the House and Senate deemed OUGHT TO PASS.

Thank you,

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