



**The Healing Community MEDCo**

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**Subject: Support of LD 40**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Esteemed members of the VLA committee,

My name is Jacob McMahan and I am here today in support of LD 40. I am one of the partners of The Healing Community MEDCo and I oversee operations of our 5 storefronts, 2 cultivation facilities, 2 manufacturing facilities, and office. I believe LD 40 will provide the Maine cannabis industry with the equal treatment our industry deserves.

This bill has been a long time coming. At the launch of the adult use program, I was astonished by the level of overreach and overbearing regulations.

The amount of hoops we have to jump through for every minor thing is absolutely suffocating to the industry which in turn affects the consumer. The time and resources we spend dealing with regulations hinders our ability to adapt, as quickly as we'd like, in this dynamic landscape.

This would be a different story if the regulations we deal with were the norm in the greater business community, but they quite simply are not. The cannabis industry is regulated far and above all comparable industries and LD 40 strives to eliminate this stigma that is built into cannabis law.

Outside of current laws, the stigma is all but lifted. Several of our retail locations are right in the hearts of downtown areas, and we are often invited to participate in city events such as art walks and popup craft events. When we participate in these events we oftentimes have people come in that don't consume cannabis but are intrigued and certainly not offended by our presence in the community. We attend Chamber of Commerce events, fundraisers, community events, city council meetings, business networking events, and more, and again, the stigma is nowhere to be seen.

Although the stigma hardly remains evident in the real world, Maine cannabis law is full of it. It's apparent on every page of cannabis legislation. Mainers have moved so far past treating our

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industry workers and business owners like criminals, but the state government has not. This is a shame.

LD 40 is a big bill and there are a lot of changes; However, they all follow one common theme: eliminating the stigma from our statute - without any adverse impact on public health.

We're asking for a lot of changes, but they are all completely sensible. No more opaque packaging requirement, no more background checks, law enforcement has to have a warrant or permission to enter premises, streamline the license renewal, get rid of vague and ambiguous language, fix labeling requirements, repeal annual fingerprinting, repeal disqualifying drug offenses, lower the fine structure to a reasonable level, fix advertising laws, repeal administrative holds, get rid of IICs, allow AU operators to produce other products, allow shared spaces for cultivation and manufacturing facilities, repeal limited access areas, ID checks at point of sale, and treat age verification the same way as alcohol industry.

What this united cannabis industry is asking for today is quite simple - liberty to operate under common sense laws that match comparable industries and justice through fixing the stigma filled cannabis laws.

Thank you

Respectfully,



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Co-owner  
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