



Dirigo. I lead. Maine leads.

Susan Meehan, President, Maine Cannabis Union
Support LD 40, Justice

Good morning Chairperson Senator Craig Hickman and Chairperson Representative Laura Supica and honorable members of the VLA. My name is Susan Meehan, and I serve as President of the Maine Cannabis Union, an affiliate of IAMAW's labor union. With a diverse background, an undergraduate degree in mathematics, computer science and education; a graduate degree in Cultural Sustainability, I have lived in Maine and been an advocate in this program since 2013 when I relocated to access the medical program for my late daughter Cyndimae (see reverse). I have helped found many of the unifying advocacy arms in Maine including Maine Children for Cannabis Therapy (2013), the administrative arm of the Maine Cannabis Coalition the United Cannabis Patients and Caregivers of Maine (2019), and the Cannabis Council of Maine, a partnership of many of Maine's fine advocacy groups (2021). A member of Maine's longest standing cannabis advocacy arm, Medical Marijuana Caregivers of Maine, as President of Maine Cannabis Union representing members in both the medical and adult use markets of Maine, I stand in strong support of LD 40 and I respectfully request your support.

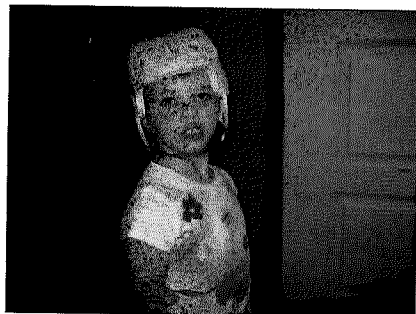
The people of Maine, the citizens who elected our legislators and our governor – these people, voted for and want both a medical program and an adult use program in Maine. We the people have spoken repeatedly in Maine, and we've grown tired of OCP antics. No where did we the people ask for prolonged stigma application of a failed drug war. We demand a regulating agency that assists program participants into compliance. We demand a regulating Office of Cannabis Policy that believes in the plant, that believes in Maine's future as an EXPORT state of sun grown craft cannabis, and that believes in the often unsung heroes that built and annually defend Maine's cannabis program, the unsung essential businesses of the worldwide pandemic.

We demand a Director and an OCP without ties to the very Friedman and Koski who drafted a drive-us-out-of-business-fast rejected set of rules for Maine. We demand a Director and an OCP with intimate experience with the MAINE cannabis industry, one who uplifts the industry rather than social media blitzes it. We demand a Director and an OCP with firsthand knowledge of the *culture* of this industry that has pulled itself up by the bootstraps out of the drug war era misconceptions. We want an OCP that understands the plant and the generations of people who protected it from annihilation during the drug war. Give us the resume material – give us regulators who grew it in a closet, who know and appreciate the people rather than look down upon the people as private prison paychecks. Give us a leader that listens to the citizens of Maine, that promotes information sharing, collaboration and the development of reliable testing standards. As President of the Maine Cannabis Union, I represent the good guys – they are voluntarily growing, processing, researching and selling a product that once landed our parent's generation in prison, a product that historically lived in the closet. We have voluntarily stepped out of the grow closet, and we demand to no longer be treated as criminals. OCP needs a complete overhaul of mission, purpose and its very existence. The problem with OCP, is a flawed purpose – they believe their purpose is to influence laws and rules, when their purpose is to ensure the laws enacted by the will of the people are implemented. Ocp are unelected employees of the State, which means they're unaccountable, Unaccountable people should not be allowed to oppress the very people and businesses that pay their salaries creating a lobbying presence in our State House and in their social media accounts. OCP was not created to lobby our legislators.

Support LD 40, to maintain Maine as the best cannabis industry in the States, and support our small businesses, support those of us trying hard to sustain this potentially life-saving and economy-saving industry for Maine citizens. We too are tired of this annual push by OCP to corporatize Maine cannabis into an import state, to eliminate caregivers, to suppress outdoor growing of this plant, and to suppress the will of the people of the state of Maine. Unified behind the will of the people of Maine, patients in Maine, our advocacy groups and our two branches of the same plant, we the people demand justice for all. Please deem LD 40 OUGHT TO PASS. Thank you for your time and attention to this industry. We appreciate you.



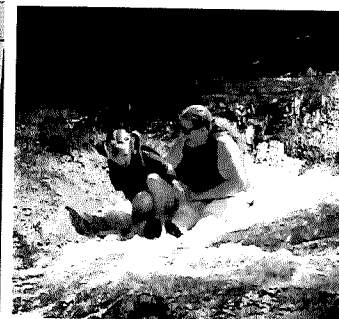
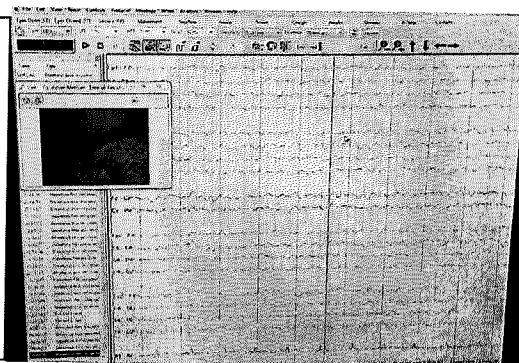
Meet Cyndimae BEFORE Marijuana was used to control her daily seizures.



This EEG is showing 5-6 spike seizure events (myoclonics) – in 8 seconds. Cyndimae's EEG prior to marijuana was a disaster one could barely differentiate when she was having a seizure and when she was not. Her EEG was so cluttered by constant seizure activity, it was not a very useful diagnostic tool. Cyndimae tried over 23 legal, mostly FDA approved medications or AEDs. These left permanent damage including increased and morphed seizure types, and severely delayed development. At 3 years old, Cyndimae BARELY qualified for Birth to 3 Services. When she was 4, her seizures became completely uncontrollable. At 13 years old she functions like a 5 year old, due to seizures and damaging, addictive pharmaceutical options. When we left Connecticut in November 2013, Cyndimae was barely hanging on. It is a CRIME that her home state FAILED her, and WITHHELD marijuana from this child and others. Prohibition is criminal.

Meet Cyndimae post cannabis in Maine where we moved when Connecticut failed Cyndimae.

Recorded at Tufts from 12/29/2015 to 12/30/2015, Cyndimae's first normal EEG. Except when actively seizing, her baseline EEG was normal for the first time ever. During this recording, Cyndimae was utilizing only cannabis to control her seizures. Prohibition and flawed state laws delayed proper treatment with cannabis by over 9 years and millions of unnecessary seizure events. End the stigma and the suffering. All cannabis use is medical.



Cyndimae Martha Meehan was born on August 17, 2002. Cyndimae was our 4th child.

Cyndimae passed away (SUDEP) sleeping on her daddy's chest during an afternoon nap on March 13, 2016.