

LD 40

Good morning esteemed members of the VLA committee, I stand before you today not just as Jennifer Belcher, but as a caregiver, a multi-business owner, a single mother, and an executive for the Maine Cannabis Union. I am also a passionate advocate for the medicinal benefits of cannabis, and I have dedicated my life to educating doctors, cancer centers, patients, and anyone else who wants to learn about this miraculous plant. My journey with cannabis began when I was diagnosed with stage 3B Vulvar cancer in 2022. I was given a 50-50 chance of survival and was faced with the daunting prospect of surgery that would leave me without my outer vagina, buttocks, and pelvic area. I was told I would never be intimate again, never use a toilet again, and that I would never feel like a woman. This news devastated me, but I refused to give up. On September 22, 2022, I underwent surgery, and to everyone's surprise, I woke up "fully intact", the removal of the tumor was much much less than anticipated and I was left with my "womanhood". The lymph nodes they removed had no cancer on them- there was 6mm on one and 3mm on the other. I was cancer free. With 3 kids at home - 2 still babies - I decided to continue cannabis treatment along with chemo and radiation. I was allergic to all pharmaceuticals like steroids and nausea meds and had to use RSO to get through the pain and sickness so my babies wouldn't see me suffer and be traumatized by "mom having cancer". I turned to cannabis and it saved my life. Before surgery and after - I started with one gram of Rick Simpson oil (RSO) per day, and within weeks, I was up to three grams per day. I also used high doses of CBD, CBN, and terpenes, as well as a nine-mushroom tincture. Cannabis had worked its magic, and I was given a second chance at life. Now, I am here to fight for LD 40, a bill that will ensure access to clean, safe cannabis for thousands of patients like me. If this bill doesn't pass, I fear for the future of my businesses and the well-being of my patients. I have seen firsthand the transformative power of cannabis, and I implore you to consider the countless lives that will be affected by your decision. I am here today to share my story, to educate, and to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves. I have blood work and hardcore facts I can show you if interested.

I urge you to pass LD 40 and give hope to those who need it most.

Thank you-

Jennifer Belcher-
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