

**Tuesday, March 18th, 2025**

**Legislative Testimony in Support of LD 929  
An Act To Increase Access To Medical Cannabis For Seniors and Veterans**

**Maine Legislative Committee on Veterans & Legal Affairs [VLA]**

**Senate Chair Hickman**

**House Chair Supica**

**Senate Minority Lead Chair Timberlake**

**House Minority Lead Chair Boyer**

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 929, a bill to expand access to medical cannabis for seniors and veterans by removing the requirement for a written certification from a medical provider.

For many seniors and veterans, cannabis provides relief from chronic pain, PTSD, and other conditions that may not respond well to pharmaceutical medications. However, the current certification requirement can, in many cases, present an unnecessary financial and logistical burden

LD 929 removes unnecessary barriers while still allowing seniors and veterans to make informed choices about their own health. As with any medication, individuals should be aware of potential interactions with existing prescriptions or medical conditions. Some effort should be made to inform medical professionals and pharmacists to normalize asking patients about their cannabis use in a nonjudgmental way. A physician and patient educational/informational component should be included in this potential legislation. However, this bill rightly shifts the focus away from unnecessary gatekeeping and toward patient autonomy.

By supporting LD 929, Maine can ensure that those who have served our country and our aging population are not forced to jump through hoops to access a natural, effective treatment option. This bill is about dignity, affordability, and reducing stigma around medical cannabis use.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 929 to make medical cannabis more accessible for those who need it most. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly