

Testimony in Support of L.D. 929

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
March 19, 2025

Good morning, honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Matthew Bayliss, I'm a resident of Cumberland and I'm here to support L.D. 929, "An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and Remove the List of Debilitating Medical Conditions," especially its push for self-certification for seniors and veterans.

Maine's seniors—folks in their 70s, 80s, and beyond—deserve simpler access to medical cannabis. These are people who've earned their stripes, living with chronic pain, arthritis, or sleeplessness that drags down their golden years. Right now, even with our flexible rules, they've got to jump through hoops, scheduling doctor visits just to get a card. I've met seniors who can barely get out of the house, let alone navigate that process. L.D. 1609 can fix this by letting them self-certify—trusting them to know cannabis eases their stiff joints or calms their nerves. It's about giving them control over their own relief, no middleman required.

Veterans need this just as much. These are men and women who've served us, carrying PTSD, nerve pain, or old injuries that never healed right. I've heard from vets who say cannabis cuts through the fog of pills that don't work, but they're tired of begging for approval. Maine ditched the conditions list years ago—good move—but some still hit walls with providers. Self-certification under L.D. 929 would let veterans decide for themselves, honoring their sacrifice with real freedom to heal.

This bill builds on Maine's progress, stripping away old rules and opening doors. Self-certification for seniors and vets isn't a leap—it's a step, a practical one. It says we respect their judgment and their needs. I urge you to back L.D. 1609 and make sure it delivers this change—fast, simple access for those who've waited long enough. Thank you for your time. I respectfully ask for your vote in favor of this legislation.