

Tuesday March 18th, 2025

Testimony in Favor of LD 948: An Act To Reduce Administrative Burdens And Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis

Maine Legislative Committee on Veterans & Legal Affairs [VLA]

Senate Chair Hickman
House Chair Supica
Senate Minority Lead Chair Timberlake
House Minority Lead Chair Boyer

Good afternoon esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Kristi Shaw, and I am here to speak in favor of LD 948. This bill is crucial for improving Maine's medical cannabis program by reducing administrative burdens on cannabis businesses, supporting small caregiver operations and expanding access for patients.

Increasing the cultivation limits for medical caregivers to 60 mature plants and 120 immature plants, as well as expanding the canopy size to 2,000 square feet, will allow caregivers to grow along with patient demand. This change ensures that patients have access to a broader range of small craft cannabis brands and allows caregivers a chance to compete with more industrial large-scale operations.

Extending the license and registration periods for both medical and adult-use cannabis from one year to two will significantly reduce time-consuming paperwork and costs. This change will allow both caregivers and AU licensees to focus more on providing their services and less on administrative tasks. Additionally, the streamlined renewal process for caregivers and licensees with no violations will further minimize time burdens and save valuable resources.

I would also like to add to this list of burdens the possibility of addressing the current senseless requirement of husband and wife caregivers to operate as separate entities for medical cannabis. This creates unnecessary busywork, requiring two sets of paperwork, EINs, and duplicate filings for essentially the same business. A unified approach would significantly reduce this administrative load and allow us to focus on providing quality cannabis to patients.

LD 948 offers practical solutions to improve efficiency and support small and family-run businesses. I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly
Kristi Shaw

Caregiver

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