

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and the members of the joint standing committee on veterans and legal affairs my name is Lizzy Hayes I am a medical cannabis caregiver and organic farmer, and I am here today in full support of LD 948.

This bill addresses the size limitation of caregiver registrations and the inability for businesses in the medical program to scale up in municipalities that have not opted in to allow registered dispensaries. To increase the scale of their business without access to a dispensary registration, some caregivers like myself work together with other members of their household under multiple registrations. My husband and I are both caregivers and I wholesale all my harvested material to him. This would allow us to maintain that same scale with a single registration which would reduce administrative work for the office of cannabis policy or allow businesses like ours to increase production without having to convince our town to adopt an ordinance permitting dispensaries, which many towns are not willing to do. In comparison to the unlimited plant count of dispensaries, it is a relatively small increase in allowance.

Another aspect that is important to me as a sun grower is that I already operate at a significant disadvantage of potential annual yield as compared to indoor growers. The current 30 plant allowance is more limited for a sun grown cultivator who only crops those plants once a year. This puts me on an unlevel playing field from folks that are using indoor cultivation which has a significantly greater energy footprint. So, I would ask that the chairs please consider this bill in conjunction with a bill not yet in the committee's possession: An Act to Support Sun-grown Cultivation and Innovative Energy-efficient Farming Practices in the Cannabis Industry, which addresses this discrepancy between the potential annual harvest of an indoor cultivator versus an outdoor cultivator. While the bill before you, LD 948, would give a greater opportunity to all caregivers, it wouldn't address the disparity between the indoor versus outdoor cultivation. If this bill were enacted I would then be able to grow 60 plants annually while an indoor cultivator could harvest 300 plants (or more) annually, which ultimately creates a disincentive for outdoor cultivation.

I support the change in renewals which move to a biannual renewal versus an annual renewal and a simplified process for businesses in good standing. This will reduce administrative load for the office of cannabis policy and program participants.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you all will support LD948.