

Testimony in opposition to LD104
May 5th, 2025

Good morning, honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Matthew Bayliss, a resident of Cumberland, and I'm testifying in opposition to LD 104.

For over a decade, I've owned and operated a small cannabis cultivation facility. In 2020, I was one of Maine's first four adult-use cultivation licensees—and one of the smallest. We meticulously tracked every plant and tested every batch as required. Meanwhile, some competitors exploited the system, skirting Metrc's laborious protocols and manipulating Maine's flawed testing regime by rigging samples. Metrc fails to prevent diversion or inversion, and the state's mandatory testing regulations do not follow statute, lack scientific rigor, and falsely imply that tested products are safe while untested ones are not.

LD 104 simply copies the adult-use program's tracking and testing rules onto the medical cannabis program. This isn't about public health and safety—it's about market consolidation and eliminating Maine's small cannabis operators, the very people who built this industry from the ground up. Metrc is on a monopolistic blitz, securing contracts in 18 states and generating over \$100 million in annual revenue. Testing cannabis doesn't detect powdery mildew—a common fungal pathogen and clear sign of a contaminated grow—nor does it identify off-market pesticides, like those recently found at an illicit grow here in Maine.

This bill won't protect public health and will devastate small medical cannabis operators. Compliance with Metrc and testing would increase operating costs by over 50%, and patient prices would skyrocket. I urge the committee to reject institutional narratives, scrutinize the facts presented today, and vote against LD 104 to preserve Maine's small cannabis businesses and affordable medicine for patients, including veterans.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions.