

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the committee,

I am here to express my strong opposition to LD 104. This bill poses a serious threat to the integrity and survival of Maine's medical cannabis program.

LD 104 appears to be written without input from those who actually work in, rely on, or understand the medical cannabis industry. If passed, it would—without question—devastate the caregiver system, restrict patient access, and undermine the program's original intent: to provide safe, affordable, and effective medicine for the people of Maine.

This bill imposes changes that are not only unnecessary but harmful. It prioritizes regulation for regulation's sake, and disregards the real-world impact on patients, caregivers, and small, community-based operators who have built this program from the ground up. LD 104 would impose additional burdens that many in the medical cannabis community simply cannot absorb—leading to closures, reduced access, and higher costs for vulnerable patients.

The medical program in Maine is one of the most respected in the country because it puts patients first. LD 104 would destroy that reputation and dismantle a system that is working for thousands of Mainers.

This bill must be killed!

I strongly urge this committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 104 and stand with the patients and caregivers who depend on a compassionate, functional, and independent medical cannabis program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Leo Paquette

LD 1847 Testimony

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Committee,

My name is Leo Paquette, I am an operator in both the Adult Use and Medical cannabis programs and I am here today to testify in strong opposition to LD 1847.

LD 1847 represents a dangerous overreach that threatens the very foundation of Maine's medical cannabis program — a program that has served patients safely and compassionately for decades. This bill, as written, imposes excessive regulation that will disproportionately harm small caregivers, reduce patient access, and undermine a community-driven system that has been both effective and accountable.

Patients across Maine rely on the medical program for consistent, affordable, and personalized care. Many have built trusted relationships with their caregivers — relationships that cannot be replaced by a one-size-fits-all approach dictated by excessive bureaucracy. LD 1847 would impose layers of regulatory burden with no evidence of public benefit, creating cost and compliance issues that small operators simply cannot sustain.

This bill appears designed not to improve patient safety or access, but to dismantle the caregiver model in favor of a more commercialized, restrictive system that serves corporate interests rather than community health and Maine small businesses. Maine's caregivers have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to compliance and patient care. Punitive overregulation is not the answer.

I urge this committee to reject LD 1847 and instead work collaboratively with patients, caregivers, and advocates to preserve what is working and address any issues with transparency and balance — not with blunt-force regulation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Leo Paquette