

Testimony opposing LD 104

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

May 5, 2025

Good day, honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Thomas Milton, of Gardiner, Maine and I am here to voice my opposition to LD 104 which is entitled "An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis".

I wish to begin by saying that I am not fundamentally opposed to Cannabis testing. I feel that this bill, if enacted, would be financially devastating to small business owners, employees, patients and communities in the Medical Cannabis Industry in Maine. We are a family owned and operated indoor medical cannabis grow with three full time employees and multiple part time workers- my wife and one of my sons are both Licensed Caregivers.

Each of our Flower Rooms contains anywhere from five to eight different cultivars (Flavors, if you will), so this would require five to eight unique tests from each of our harvests and the testing costs roughly \$500 per test (based on pricing from multiple Maine Cannabis Testing Facilities in the last 60 days). If enacted, this Bill would create an added financial burden of \$2500 to \$4000 per harvest. Downward pricing pressure in the Maine Medical Cannabis market over the last several years leaves us absolutely no chance of passing on these higher costs to our customers. The added cost and administrative burden could very likely put us out of business.

The Medical Cannabis Caregivers of Maine already have tracking. We have trip tickets and invoices, as required by law. Adding a statewide inventory tracking system would add another layer of administrative and financial burden to our business. Again, the added costs and administrative burden could very likely put us out of business. A large percentage of the Medical Cannabis Caregivers in Maine are our size or smaller, so the additional testing and tracking requirements would impact smaller growers even more than us. This Bill would cost a lot of jobs.

In summary, I think we can do better than LD104 to ensure safety and legal compliance in the Maine Medical Cannabis market. I respectfully ask for you to vote AGAINST LD 104. Thank you very much for your time and your service.