

John Wallin  
Owner - Bigfoot Industries - Bethel ME  
Co-Owner - Cryptids - Bethel ME

My name is John Wallin, I've been a caregiver and medical cannabis user for over a decade here in Maine. I am co-owner of Cryptids in Bethel.

LD104 would bring forth overregulation that would greatly raise costs of production, and ultimately, the price of medical cannabis in Maine would greatly increase. Unfortunately, this would be the death sentence for small batch local growers and small shops like many of us here today and watching at home. This is not just about business, this is very personal.

We are living in difficult financial times here in Maine, every penny counts, Especially when it comes to health care. Mainers deserve affordable medical cannabis they can trust, from growers they have a relationship with. Mainers deserve an alternative to pharmaceutical narcotics such as OxyContin and Fentanyl to name a few. Maine was hit hard by the opioid crisis, this is a topic that is very personal to me, and to many Mainers, it's why I'm standing here today. My sister has an autoimmune disease that has ravaged her health for over 20 years. Chronic pain was an issue every day, her quality of life, and mental health was devastating. My family did whatever we could to find answers. Doctors prescribed every drug you could imagine from OxyContin to installing a fentanyl pump in her body. Nothing improved her condition, the never ending cocktail of narcotics lead to chemically induced schizophrenia. It was medical cannabis that led her on the road to recovery. She was able to get off the pills and lean on medical cannabis which led to her mental health improving exponentially. Today, she's well on her way to becoming a nurse. Soon, she'll be the one who helps those in need. Without affordable medical cannabis, none of this would have been possible.

When you enter the great state of Maine, you pass a sign that reads open for business. Not just big businesses, not just corporations, but small mom and pop shops. Buying locally is a way of life here in Maine. LD 104 is a threat to that way of life. Maine medical patients deserve choices, they deserve cannabis from growers they know and trust, not just large faceless companies with money to burn. Small batch growers built this medical program brick by brick, we've earned our place at the table with our blood, sweat and tears.

Thank you for listening and thank you for considering everything that you hear here today. This is an important topic that will affect a lot of Mainers' lives.