

Testimony – Lyda Libby

Prepared for Maine State Legislature – 05/05/2025 Cannabis Policy Session

Good morning, members of the committee. My name is Lyda Libby and I am a resident of Wiscasset. I'm a longtime medical cannabis patient, a creative cannabis artist, and a budtender here in Maine.

My message is simple: Free the plant.

Cannabis is medicine. Cannabis is agriculture. It's a medicinal plant—and it deserves the same respect as any other healing herb growing in our gardens.

In my work, I've had the honor of helping patients through some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives- supporting them through chronic pain, emotional distress, and even end-of-life care. Cannabis gave them comfort, relief, and moments of peace.

Patients shouldn't be burdened with arbitrary THC caps that ignore their individual needs. They shouldn't face delays because caregivers are forced to navigate METRC, or comply with costly testing and packaging mandates that add expense without adding value. We need policies that free the plant from systems designed for corporate compliance. Yes, safe and affordable medicine is the goal—but overregulation is not how we protect patients.

We protect them by building community, not by creating barriers. They rely on locally grown, caregiver-crafted medicine—grown with love, knowledge, and intention. They also need access, education, and connection. Events give patients a chance to connect, ask questions, and feel seen. Cannabis has always been more than commerce. It's culture, history, and resilience.

I was born here in Maine, and I've grown here too. This is where I'm learning how to live with intention—how to speak up, stay grounded, and move with purpose. Maine has that same potential. We don't have to follow other states. We can grow something uniquely our own. Our motto is *Dirigo*—I lead. Let's live up to it.

Let's build a model that's thoughtful, sustainable, and deeply human—one that reflects not just what the cannabis industry could be, but what it should be: compassionate, community-driven, and rooted in care.

I support LD 1672, 1820, 1840, and 1897—bills that protect caregivers, promote sun-grown cultivation, expand access to events, and respect the plant's natural place in our communities. Outdoor cultivation is not only traditional, it's environmentally responsible. I also support LD 1488, 1567, and 1620, which bring transparency and balance, and prohibit the use of ionizing radiation on cannabis products.

I strongly oppose LD 104 and LD 1847, which would impose METRC tracking, along with mandated testing, THC caps, and taxes that many patients simply cannot afford. That's not regulation—it's restriction. And it threatens the foundation of what makes this program work.

A program that was built by the people. By hands in the soil and hearts in the work. The caregivers, patients, small growers, herbalists, educators—we are the heart of it. And we're simply asking for the space to keep doing what we've done for years: grow clean medicine, support our neighbors, and serve with integrity.

I ask you not just to protect this program, but to nurture it. To believe in what's already working. To listen to the people living this every day—and to help us build a future where the plant, the people, and the purpose don't just survive—but thrive.

Thank you for your time, your attention, and your openness.
Please—free the plant.