

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Amy McFarland.

I run Independence Farm with my husband.

Today I am testifying in favor of LD# 1840.

(An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act)

This bill amends the definition of a "Caregiver retail store", and it specifically states a store does not include an office at a location which is not accessible to the public.

Last August a definition change caused an issue for many in the cannabis community.

We were told offices were no longer allowed, you had to be a store.

Now, I would like to discuss farmers' markets.

Cannabis farmers are unable to sell their products at traditional farmers' markets.

For decades cannabis farmers have been holding their own farmers' markets, where they sell both their cannabis and other goods they produce.

LD#1840 will clearly define that farmers are authorized to continue holding these events.

Farmers' markets increase accessibility for patients as well as they promote business growth for the farmers.

This bill also prohibits the department from posting on its website information regarding a registered caregiver including any address where the caregiver cultivates, manufactures, tests, packages, etc.

Having a list available to the general public is very unsafe in my opinion.

Many within the cannabis industry grow on the properties in which they and their children live.

In addition to this, we are also not allowed to protect ourselves with guns like other farmers can.

The list should be immediately removed from OCP's website.

Once a caregiver retail store or manufacturing facility has received approval from their town, that should be enough for them to renew their license(s) with OCP.

No additional paperwork from the town should be needed.

With that said, I ask you all to vote "Yes" on LD# 1840.