

Opposition to LD 1847



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Testimony in Opposition to LD 1847

Submitted by the Medical Marijuana Caregivers of Maine (MMCM)

Date: May 5th, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

On behalf of the **Medical Marijuana Caregivers of Maine (MMCM)** and the hundreds of caregivers, patients, and small businesses we represent across the state, we write in *strong and unequivocal opposition* to **LD 1847, "An Act to Update and Clarify the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act."**

LD 1847 is not an update or clarification—it is a calculated attempt to dismantle a patient-focused, community-driven medical program and replace it with a model that mimics the *deeply flawed Adult Use system*. The adult-use program has been plagued by regulatory overreach, excessive fees, market consolidation, and barriers that favor well-funded corporate entities while excluding small operators. To suggest that this broken model should be applied to Maine's medical program is not just misguided—it is dangerous to the very people this program was built to serve.

This legislation proposes **burdensome new regulations**, including **arbitrary packaging and labeling requirements** that offer no tangible benefit to patients or consumers. These requirements represent a significant financial cost to small businesses, many of which have already invested thousands into compliant systems. Forcing these changes now will create waste, increase overhead, and push caregivers out of the market—leaving patients with fewer options and higher prices.

Perhaps most outrageously, **LD 1847 calls for a youth cannabis education campaign to be paid for with revenue collected from caregivers**. This means our members would be forced to fund messaging that positions us as a threat to public safety—despite decades of service to sick and vulnerable Mainers, and despite mounting evidence that *regulated markets are associated with lower youth use*, not more. Studies, including those from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and JAMA Pediatrics, show that underage use has declined in states with legalized and well-regulated cannabis programs.

Let us be clear: *Caregivers are not the problem*. We are proud, taxpaying, licensed professionals who grow and provide clean, affordable, and compassionate medicine to thousands of Mainers—especially in rural areas where access to healthcare and alternatives is limited. Our program has existed since 1999 and has adapted over the years with integrity and care. LD 1847 seeks to fix what is not broken, disrupt what is working, and punish those who have consistently operated in good faith.

This bill is a betrayal of trust. It is a threat to patient access, caregiver livelihoods, and the values of autonomy and compassion that have defined Maine's medical cannabis program from

the beginning. On behalf of our members and the patients we serve, MMCM urges you to vote **NO** on LD 1847.

Respectfully submitted,
Medical Marijuana Caregivers of Maine (MMCM)

Chair - Tammy Smith

Vice Chair - Kristi Shaw

And The Executive Board and Membership of MMCM

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