

Good Morning honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal affairs. My name is James Dube, I am a resident of Lebanon as well as a caregiver and I've participated in the program since 2016. I am here to express my opposition to L.D 104 *An act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis*. As well as L.D. 1847 *An act to Institute Testing and Tracking of Medical Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products Similar to Adult use Cannabis and Cannabis Products, Dedicate a portion of the Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax to Medical Use Cannabis Programs and Create a Study Group*.

Firstly the hypocrisy of the title of the bill alone is laughable. *An act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and streamline mandatory testing of cannabis*. Based upon the content of the bill, and the cost prohibiting nature of the proposed requirements, it is clear that a monoculture based system is the goal of this Bill. It no doubt makes everything easier on an administrative level. However we have clear examples through our understanding of these agricultural practices that the lack of genetic diversity within any sect of agriculture opens up said population to disease. This method of farming is completely dependent on chemical means of protection from insects and pathogens that cause disease within the plant. This is why we see round up ready seed and genetically modified seed in industries such as Corn and Soy Beans. Bio diversity is nature's answer to this problem. In a healthy environment many individuals exist in a field and if one of those individuals becomes susceptible to a pest or pathogen, natural selection takes over and the resilient varieties tend to proliferate where the weak individuals die off. So how does this affect the cannabis facilities we have in this state? Especially if most are located indoors? Well since we have no natural factors to climatize plants in an indoor growing environment we depend on the diversity of populations to find the individuals that best suit the spaces we grow in. Ideally in a field over time climatization would occur resulting in a naturally selected strong population. Since the selection of said individuals falls on the indoor farmer, searching through large populations of seed, sometimes 100 or more individuals for resistance, flower quality and desired effects becomes the only way to ensure truly safe medicine. Under L.D. 104 and L.D. 1847 this would be impossible. In order for each variety to be brought to market, based upon submission to the lab most local to me in southern Maine, under current pricing a cost of \$705 dollars per sample would be incurred. This will 100% stop all innovation and discovery of new medical varieties. I think it is also worth noting that feedback from patients is how most of us make the decision on what to produce, considering this is in fact their medicine. This will inevitably perpetuate cultivation of already known varieties for the sake of administrative ease. This plant is dynamic and needs to be treated that way, to stop this discovery process goes against all the pillars our medical program was built on. Small farmers that are cultivating for members of their community, and attempting to provide relief to those who need it. That is not a one size fits all system.

In front of me I have a box that contains roughly 2000 seeds that I made in a single pollination event. The cost to hunt through each individual in this box and offer them to patients before any feedback under both L.D 104 and L.D. 1847 would be \$1.41 million dollars. You heard me right. If that alone is not enough to show how outrageous both of these bills are and how absolutely destructive they will be to small farmers I'm not sure any of the other bottle necks written into

these bills will matter. Ultimately the patients will lose and the loss of the small farmers will be collateral damage of bad policy. Please be the example for the rest of the country, we need at least one medical program nationwide that is truly for the people. You have the opportunity to preserve that for this amazing state we are all so proud to call home. Please oppose L.D. 104 and L.D 1847. Thank you all for your time.