

May 8th 2025

LDs 1608, 1320, and 1455 (Opposed)
LD 1609 (Neither For Nor Against)

Good afternoon, Senators, Representatives, and members of the committee.

My name is Kristi Shaw, and I'm a licensed caregiver in Maine. I'm here to speak in strong opposition to LDs 1608, 1320, and 1455. I'm neither for nor against LD 1609.

Let me be clear: caregivers do not want illegal grows in this state. We want protection from bad actors just as much as you do. But these bills don't feel like protection — they feel like a potential trap.

These bills are written so broadly that a caregiver could lose their license or be denied renewal just for being in the wrong building, even if they did nothing wrong. You don't have to be convicted of a crime — just associated with a place under investigation. That's not enforcement — that's guilt by proximity.

There is a deep, long-standing distrust between cannabis advocates and law enforcement. As most any caregiver that has been doing this for a while knows, the most dangerous things about cannabis are the criminal elements that come with prohibition, and law enforcement taking your kids or freedom away - not this healing plant! For decades, we've been treated like criminals, based on a political decision made by Richard Nixon to wage the "drug war" - since exposed for its roots in racism and intentionally hysterical propaganda. After building a regulated, successful industry from the ground up, even the most compliant caregivers still get treated with implicit bias and suspicion through random and unnecessarily convoluted rules and ingrained stigmas.

Caregivers are small operators. We are farmers, patients, and professionals. We're licensed, inspected, and accountable. But OCP continues to push media narratives that use a few bad actors to make all of us look corrupt. They have partnered with newspapers to spotlight contaminated products and illegal grows — but they somehow never highlight the thousands of caregivers who follow the rules every day. That's propaganda, not regulation.

We would like OCP to do their job — not create new rules that could be misinterpreted to punish people who are already compliant. If there are truly criminal operations slipping into the legal market, that's a failure of enforcement, not legislation. You don't solve that with vague new laws — you solve it with oversight and real investigations.

As for LD 1609, I understand the intent, but again — if OCP already has the power to deny licenses for good cause, why aren't they using it? If the tools exist, what's missing is accountability.

Please don't pass any bills that further stigmatize the cannabis industry and are so vague that their enforcement is left to the regulators interpretation. We have lived long enough in that kind of uncertainty. We're the people who have built this industry that's bettered the lives of countless Mainers and become the biggest agricultural commodity in the state— and we deserve better.

Thank you for your time.

Kristi Shaw

Caregiver

Hampden Me

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May 5th 2025

In Support of LD 1840

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

I am speaking to you today in support for LD 1840, a bill that brings much-needed clarity and protection to Maine's medical cannabis program. As a caregiver deeply invested in the well-being of my patients and the integrity of our industry, I believe this legislation addresses critical issues that have created significant problems for the cannabis community.

LD 1840 is essential in delineating the boundaries of the OCP's authority. By prohibiting the department from issuing requirements or guidance not explicitly authorized by law, the bill prevents the introduction of arbitrary rules that have historically led to confusion and operational disruptions for caregivers and dispensaries. This clarity ensures that our businesses can operate without the fear of sudden regulatory changes that lack legislative backing.

One of this bill's most important points to me personally is the provisions to restrict the public disclosure of caregiver addresses. This provision is vital for the safety of cannabis family farms like mine. Many caregivers operate from our homes, and the publication of our addresses exposes us to the potential dangers inherent in a cash dominant industry. By mandating that such information only be released upon request, LD 1840 strikes a balance between transparency and personal security.

LD 1840 acknowledges the importance of cannabis-related events, like trade shows and festivals, which are the backbone of our industry, by explicitly permitting caregivers to sell and transport products at these venues. These events not only offer economic opportunities for caregivers and various ancillary small local businesses, they also have a long and successful history in the state, offering educational platforms that foster community engagement and patient outreach. Medical Marijuanna Caregivers of Maine have been holding safe and successful industry and patient expos at the Augusta Civic Center for 11+ years, giving countless people opportunities to connect over this amazing plant. Protecting, normalizing and even celebrating cannabis related events - with the same pride and gusto that the small Maine craft brewery businesses get - ensures the continued growth and normalization of Maine's cannabis industry.

The bill's requirement for the Office of Cannabis Policy to include gross sales data in its annual report promotes transparency and allows stakeholders and those looking to get into this industry the ability to make informed decisions.

Moreover, the directive to implement a medical cannabis research grant program is a forward-thinking step that will contribute to the scientific understanding of cannabis and its therapeutic potential and could place Maine in the forefront of scientific study in the country. As

of right now only Kentucky and Oklahoma have state run cannabis research labs. In 2021, legislation was enacted to create a "medical cannabis research grant program" (Title 22: Health and Welfare, Subtitle 2: Health, Part 5: Foods and Drugs, Chapter 558-C: MAINE MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS ACT) within the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services. This program was supposed to provide grant money to support OBJECTIVE (unlike the research suggested in LD 1847) scientific research on the efficacy and health effects of medical cannabis. As of yet, rules necessary to implement the program have not been adopted, and no funds have been allocated.

In conclusion, LD 1840 is a comprehensive piece of legislation that addresses many of the pressing needs of Maine's medical cannabis community. It reinforces the rule of law, protects individual privacy, supports economic activity, and promotes transparency and research. I urge you to support this bill and ensure the continued success and integrity of our state's medical cannabis program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

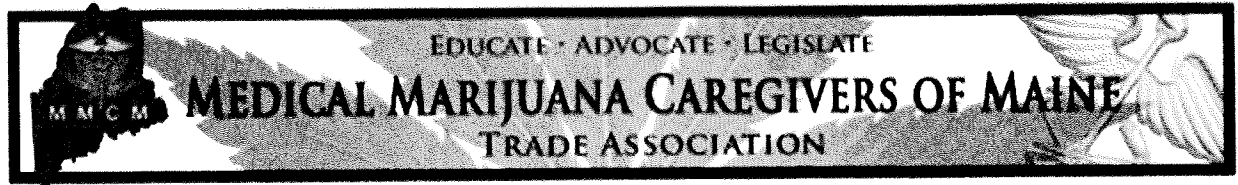
Kristi Shaw

Caregiver

Vice Chair MMCM

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Supporting

LD 1567

May 5th 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD 1567

“An Act to Require Labeling of Radiation Treatment and Ozonation of Adult Use Cannabis and Inspection and Registration of Associated Equipment”

Submitted to the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

132nd Maine Legislature – First Special Session, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

This testimony is submitted in support of **LD 1567**, a bill that takes important steps to ensure transparency, consumer safety, and fairness in Maine's cannabis market.

Maine has built a strong reputation for high-quality, small-batch cannabis. Many licensed cultivators in the state take exceptional care to grow clean, terpene-rich flower using natural, labor-intensive methods—slow curing, hand trimming, and minimal processing. These efforts result in products that are valued by informed consumers who seek out cannabis not just for its potency, but for its full-spectrum flavor, aroma, and therapeutic effect.

However, overly strict microbial testing thresholds are now driving producers to routinely irradiate cannabis to meet compliance. As a result, irradiation—despite its negative impact on terpene content and uncertain health implications—is becoming the norm in the market. This trend threatens Maine's standing as a leader in small craft cultivation and risks undermining the very qualities that sets our cannabis apart from other states.

LD 1567 addresses these concerns by requiring:

- **Clear labeling** of cannabis that has been treated with radiation or ozone, so that consumers can make informed decisions;
- **Inspection and registration** of the equipment used in such processes, to ensure basic safety and regulatory oversight.

These are common-sense measures that promote transparency, protect public health, and help preserve the integrity of Maine's cannabis industry. Stakeholders and consumers alike deserve to know if a product has been what, exactly, is being sold.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to vote **Ought to Pass** on LD 1567.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Chair - Tammy Smith

Vice Chair - Kristi Shaw

And The Executive Board and Membership of MMCM

May 5th, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 1620

Dear Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

I write in strong support of LD 1620, which makes common-sense improvements to Maine's cannabis testing laws.

As the only strictly-caregiver at MCIA from the very beginning of the AU market, there for the launch in 2020, until just a couple years ago, I watched AU stakeholders take on the challenges of navigating the pitfalls of this new market, the insane costs of METRC, the ridiculous camera requirements, and many more issues and knew that as a small family-owned business, that market was not attainable for us. Now seeing bills come forth trying to get the medical market to get onboard with the same testing parameters, it seems extra hair-on-fire important to support AU operators in fixing a lot of the problems with their testing issues.

I'm supporting LD 1620 as a caregiver because Maine's current adult-use testing requirements are simply not workable for many small craft growers. Cannabis is a plant that has been safely cultivated for centuries, yet our current system treats it like a high-risk substance, with expensive and excessive testing protocols that shut out small businesses.

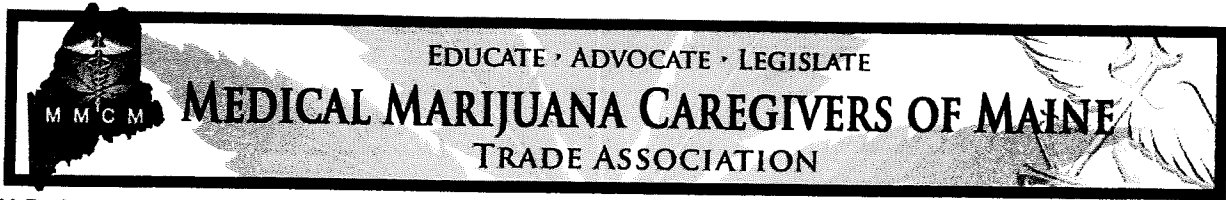
LD 1620 is a step toward a more balanced approach—one that still ensures safety, but also recognizes the realities of farming and small-scale production. If you want a fair and diverse adult-use market in Maine, we need rules that growers can realistically operate within. We've not seen that yet.

Please support this bill and help create a system where craft growers have a chance to participate in the AU market and succeed.

Sincerely,
Kristi Shaw

Maine Caregiver

Hampden Me



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May 8, 2025

Dear Veterans of Legal Affairs Committee and esteemed legislators,

On behalf of the Maine Cannabis industry, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your time and attention during the testimonies regarding LD 104 and LD 1847 and other cannabis bills on Tuesday, May 5th, 2025. The dedication and commitment demonstrated by each of you during these proceedings were truly commendable.

We understand that your roles require immense effort and careful consideration, and we appreciate your willingness to listen to our concerns and opinions regarding these crucial bills. Your receptiveness to our testimonies has reaffirmed our faith in the democratic process and the importance of open communication between legislators and their constituents.

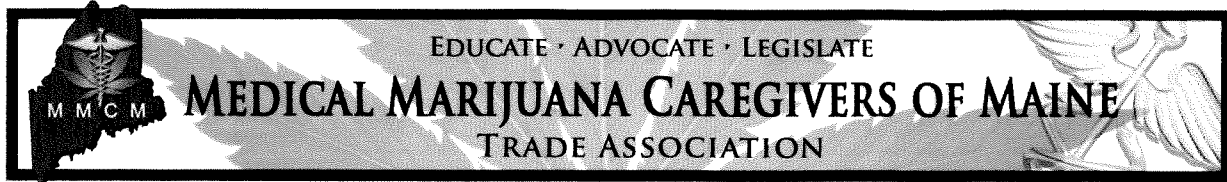
Your efforts in creating a platform for diverse voices to be heard will undoubtedly contribute to the betterment of our industry and the well-being of our community. As we move forward together, we are confident that the decisions made will be well-informed and representative of the needs of those most affected by these proposed legislations.

Once again, we thank you for your service, and we look forward to continued collaboration in shaping a brighter future for the cannabis industry in Maine.

Sincerely,

Board members of MMCM

Medical Marijuana Caregivers of Maine



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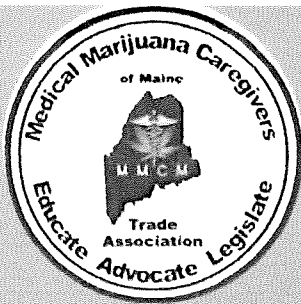
Dear Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the MMCM Trade Association, we would like to extend a warm invitation to attend our upcoming Maine Cannabis Testing Round Table Event. We believe your presence and participation would significantly contribute to the success of this gathering.

Please RSVP: whether attending, or via ZOOM (zoom link will be sent)
As we will be providing food, kindly RSVP to Mmcmaine@gmail.com

We look forward to your attendance and participation at the event. Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to reach out to us directly.

Best regards,
MMCM Trade Association



MAINE CANNABIS TESTING ROUNDTABLE

Please join us for an open discussion with stakeholders, testing professionals, and legislators as we assess the current landscape of cannabis testing — and where we go from here. This free, catered event is a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and help shape the future of cannabis testing in Maine.

Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot!

TUESDAY MAY 13TH



5 - 8 PM

11 PARKWOOD DR,
AUGUSTA

Zoom Option Available

RSVP

mmcmaine@gmail.com

(207) 596-3501



CATERED BY:

