

Mikki Rice  
Freeman Township  
In Support  
LD 1675 An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws  
CJPS Committee  
Public Hearing 5/14/21

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is **Mikki Rice**, I'm from **Freeman Township**, and I am speaking in **Support of LD 1675 An Act To Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws** and I would like to thank you for listening to my testimony.

There are many factors that go into the amount of drugs someone needs to take to feel the effects. There are also many reasons why someone may have over a "useable amount" on them, but still not be selling the drug in question. It's not fair to drug users to be further stigmatized because law enforcement has the ability to charge them with trafficking based on the weight that they are carrying. We know based on height, weight, genetic makeup, length of use, etc...that some people are going to need more of the same substance to feel the same effects as another person, yet our laws are still set up to charge someone with trafficking if they have over a certain amount of drugs on them and let's be honest, the amounts that we have listed are very low. For instance someone only needs to be carrying more than 2 grams of heroin on them to be considered trafficking. In my time of using, I knew people that used 2 grams at 1 time. Should that person be charge with trafficking if they have more than 1 use worth in their possession?

When listening to the public hearing for LD 967, Someone that was opposing the bill at the time had said that "possession in Maine is not treated as a felony" and, "they have the discretion on what to charge with". My question is: Why should it be left up to discretion? Why should someone have to pay a steeper price just because they have a higher tolerance? Or

they don't have a vehicle so they wanted to make sure that they got enough to last so they aren't sick? It doesn't constitute a tougher sentence. If someone is really trafficking then I'm sure there would be some other evidence that shows that. So there is no reason not to take the weight out of the equation.

Also we know that Crack is no more potent and causes no more harm than straight cocaine. The only reason the laws were enacted in regards to having a much tougher penalty for crack is because of propaganda. The laws for crack should be no different than the laws for Cocaine seeing how the only difference is Baking soda, water, and heat.

For the reasons listed above, I urge you to vote "**Ought to Pass**" on **LD 1675 An Act To Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws**, because we should be making our laws more fair and just and we should not be charging someone with a trafficking charge and ruin the rest of their life based on a technicality.

I thank you for listening to my testimony, and I am willing to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Mikki Rice  
Freeman Township