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Maine Cannabis Coalition

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Support for LD 421

Good morning Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee members. I am here today representing the Maine Cannabis Coalition in support of LD 421 "An Act To Increase the Number of Plants a Medical Marijuana Caregiver May Cultivate." First and foremost, LD 421 seeks to create equity in the cannabis industry by using market forces to give growers the opportunity to introduce more supply into the market, creating more sales volume and ultimately driving down prices. My family sells pallets, the government does not regulate how many trees we can grow to create those pallets. We are allowed to harvest enough trees and create enough pallets to meet demand. Now, obviously cannabis is a different product and there are aspects of this industry that should be regulated. Increasing the limit of plants that caregivers can produce is a market based solution to a regulatory problem. LD 421 will have many benefits, but I will highlight the two of them. By introducing more cannabis into the market it will lower costs for patients that are often making budgets around their medicine. This pandemic has created economic insecurity for so many families, taking every approach to lower their cost of living is prudent. Second, with more cannabis in the market it will create more sales volume which will result in more tax revenue. By allowing a more free market in the medical cannabis industry you are achieving two of the original goals of cannabis legalization, patient access to medicine and raising tax revenue. A final point for LD 421 is that it is a net gain bill for the state. It costs nothing, and it will raise the state money.

Thank you for your time, I would be interested in any questions that the Chairs or Committee Members may have.