

Susan Meehan
Sweden

Good afternoon Chairperson Senator Louis Luchini and Chairperson Representative Chris Caiazza and the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Susan Meehan from Sweden, Maine in Oxford County. I moved to Maine in 2013 to access the best medical marijuana program in the country to treat my late daughter Cyndimae. Cyndimae is a legacy, a champion of patient access in several states, together we fought for safe and affordable access, for patient's rights to use their non-combustible medicine in hospitals and schools, for patient rights to possess and process their medicine in the safety of their own homes, and many other key legislative points. In my daughter's honor, I am a Medical Marijuana Caregiver currently non-cultivating, who delivers medicine to pediatric patients across Maine. I am also Secretary of the Maine Cannabis Coalition and a founding member of Maine Children for Cannabis Therapy.

I support the concept and language of LD 421. This is a fine example of how legislation should look: simple and clear, a couple of sentences that make the point, and no unnecessary language, yet language is present! Addressing the additional canopy square footage only makes sense with the increased plant count. Perhaps we can double from ¼ billion a year to half a billion. The larger the grow, the more space you must account for to allow proper airflow and mold mitigation. The additional square footage will allow for healthier plant growth even if the plant count remained. Most of the Caregiver contribution to this industry (about 75% of the total) stays in Maine enhancing our local communities, and the parallel impact is enormous impacting the HVAC industry, soil and grow stores, electrician and plumbers, carpenters and general contractors. This industry is good for the economy, and it's good for our communities of which we are actively a part. Someone will fill the gap in production via the black market if the legal market cannot support the need. Rarely do we find such a simple change that has the potential to create so much positive impact. Thank you to the bill sponsor Representative Collings, and thank you to the VLA Committee for hosting this hearing.