

Laura Pariseau
Lincoln

Good Morning. Thank you for taking the time to read this. My name is Laura. I have been a medical cannabis patient for close to 10 years. At first, I was very naive and had no idea what I was doing. I was looking to find relief for both my physical and psychological ailments. I went to one of the big licensed dispensaries thinking that since the state approves of them, they MUST be able to help me. At this time there were only 8 dispensaries in Maine and caregiver storefronts did not exist. I sat with one of the employees and they rattled off some info that sounded good so I bought what they directed me to and went home. I assumed this would be my golden ticket and I would find the relief I had desperately needed. I was wrong. So, I went back and I met with someone else and they basically told me "this is what everyone else likes" and suggested I buy it. They didn't take the time to listen to me nor did they have any idea what I was trying to treat because they didn't give me the opportunity to explain. I went back a couple more times but never had anyone help me in the way I was hoping. So, I found the medical cannabis community. I learned there were all these caregivers and so many people like me who needed help in ways the dispensaries were not able to fulfill. I spoke to a couple caregivers and found out these people really do care. They actually listened to me and my concerns, experiences, and made suggestions as to what they have gotten feedback from people with the same conditions as me. When they didn't have something that worked for me, they would help me find someone who did. It was absolutely incredible the level of help I received from these caregivers. As time passed, many of these amazing healers started opening up storefronts. Now there was a place I could send people where they could get access and proper consultation services so they understood how to use this medicine. There have been caregivers who have gone out of their way to make sure the sickest most vulnerable patients are cared for. The big issue here is they are struggling to be able to keep up. It takes a large amount of plant material to make such a small amount of concentrated cannabis which is required for the sickest patients. It is extremely difficult to provide quality services without any interruption under the current plant count restrictions. If caregivers had more plants, they could provide their quality care uninterrupted. Thus, more uninterrupted taxes to the state. This is their livelihood and they have gone through some huge changes to fulfill the requirements the state has asked to ensure they're operating their businesses appropriately.

Thank you for your time