

Thank you for your time and listening to your constituents. I am a Maine Medical Cannabis Patient and a professional scientist. Through the current program, I have been able to safely access affordable, clean, top shelf medicine to aid me in living day to day with my various ailments. Due to this access, I am able to better function on a daily basis, contribute to society, and provide for my family. It is in this current program that I am able to tell you exactly who grew my medicine and I am able to ask questions about their production, ethics, and products. I have been able to find cultivators that grow medicine that aligns with my ethics and beliefs. The current program is thriving as you all know of the tax revenue from this program. Without imposing constrictive change, the medical industry will only continue to thrive, improve, and support the patients in this state and the surrounding community. It is no secret that Massachusetts residents enter Maine to purchase our craft cannabis over the corporate cannabis within their own state. Whether you know it or not, Maine is now the leader, the example to aim towards of what a thriving medical cannabis program looks like. Why is it Maine? Mostly due to the amazing product selection and the hard work by every single Mainer within the industry. But it is also the model and is thriving because of a lack of over-regulation. The states that paved the way for Maine, have fallen into the arena of burdensome over-regulation. I've spoken with cultivators out in California and they all say the same thing, over-regulation is crushing them, hindering their ability to farm and make a profit. Please do not add unnecessary burden on Maine small businesses. Please allow for a fair, user friendly medical cannabis market. The tax revenue from the medical program, is only going to increase in the coming years. If you impose heavy, unnecessary regulation, you will only be hurting the state. The state of Maine needs to utilize all tax sources to improve itself but adding the 80pg proposal of rule changes would drive small businesses to close, prevent new businesses to open, and add costs to those that can survive but will increase patient product pricing. While all that is happening to Mainers, you would be making an easier path for big corporations to establish in Maine but no medical patient is going to consume medicine generated by those large entities and the tax revenue would plummet. Do not ruin this program.

Allow the cultivators to grow more plants. More plants, means more product, which means more tax revenue. Look at California and Colorado, do not let this great program fall by the wayside as those predecessors did.

As a marine biologist, I can tell you that the lobster industry will not be the backbone of Maine forever and it would be wise to allow other industries to flourish and help carry some of the load. Allow the Medical Cannabis industry to continue to be one of those sets of hands. I do not support the 80pg rule change proposal, I do support LD421 and LD353. Let's keep this industry humming and thriving. Support Mainers and Maine owned small businesses.