

Hello,

I am writing to convey a few concerns I have with the proposed legislation regarding the Cannabis Industry here in Maine. Chiefly my interest is in the Medical system, in which I am a registered caregiver who operates a small individual caregiver business.

In my view, the primary justification for having less regulation than Adult Use is that Medical Caregiver businesses are small (so they can be more quality-focused) when compared to large Adult Use businesses.

By the proposed doubling of the allowed plant count, and by permitting multiple caregivers to combine into large businesses I fear you risk several things:

You make Medical look more like Adult use and thereby increase competition between the two systems (further justifying more regulation against Medical to align the two systems, including justifying the seed to sale tracking and proposed video surveillance requirements which I firmly think are not currently necessary).

In order to preserve the Medical system and protect small businesses and individual caregivers, I believe it is imperative that the two systems are kept separate and differentiated by the ways they operate and the scales at which they operate. Seed to sale and video surveillance (as they are currently proposed) put undue pressure on small businesses who make up the backbone of this industry. We don't have employees, and often work out of a home garden where such compliance requirements are simply not feasible. I believe we should be allowed to continue to operate with reasonable compliance requirements (as it is currently) and continue to directly supply patients with quality medicine, and also to continue to wholesale to medical dispensaries when we find it difficult to distribute our products directly.

By the proposed legislation I fear that Medical Cannabis businesses will only grow larger, and thereby threaten to invoke further undue regulation which only serves to harm small scale cannabis businesses. For many of us, our livelihood is at stake.

Thank you for your consideration.