



March 29, 2021

Senator Louis Luchini
Representative Chris Caiazzo
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Re: Written Testimony on LD 882

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, distinguished member so the Committee:

The members of the United Cannabis Coalition of Maine are opposed to the passage of LD 882, an *Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act*.

Their opposition is grounded in the following observations:

1. This LD is another in a series of proposed legislation that function, when read as a whole, to functionally merge the medicinal and adult use markets into one administrative jurisdiction for purposes of identifying and administratively adjudicating violations of regulatory standards imposed upon market participants.
2. It treats adult use licensees and medicinal caregivers as occupying analogous economic positions as to both medical patients and recreational consumers.
3. These markets are different and should be treated in consideration of those distinctions.
4. Caregivers participate in a market commonly characterized as home-based occupations, small scale operations consistent with the idea of a "mom and pop" enterprise.
5. Adult use market participants are better understood as true commercial enterprises necessitating significant capital for large scale cultivation and sophisticated retail strategies.
6. Adult use enterprises are often linked to out of state corporate interests operating in various state cannabis economies.
7. The two markets are distinct as intended by the Acts that authorized their existence and validated by predecessor oversight Committees, to include the *Select Committee on Marijuana Legalization and Implementation* as well as the *Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*. Both committees were faithful to the preservation of a clear statutory and regulatory division, as between the markets, so as to protect the individual nature of both the medicinal and adult use markets, their participants and the end users of cannabis medicine or products.

8. This proposed administrative hearing process fails to account for the diversity between the two markets and is intended simply to increase the expediency of rule violation adjudication without any consideration of the market diversity discussed.

The Coalition recognizes that its members have made errors in their practices, record keeping or other conduct within their role in the medicinal market. To date they have welcomed inspection and have been diligent in their adherence to any mitigation plan offered by the Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP).

Medical caregivers have appreciated and cooperated with OMP's posture of compliance over "enforcement". They see this Bill as wiping the compliance slate clean and substituting a stricter violation approach moving forward.

They urge this Committee to vote Ought Not To Pass.

Submitted on behalf of the United Cannabis Coalition of Maine by Mark N. Dion, Esq., lobbyist for the Coalition.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark N. Dion, Esq.