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March 29, 2021

Re: LD 525, *An Act to Allow Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Stores to Share a Common Space*

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

I am Erik Gundersen, Director of the Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP) and I am before you today to provide testimony on behalf of our office neither for nor against LD 525, *An Act to Allow Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Stores to Share a Common Space*.

LD 525 would allow for co-location of adult use and medical marijuana retail operations within the same storefront. While we were in opposition of this proposal in the past, we are truly neutral at this moment in time.

Our main concern earlier was with any significant change to the regulatory structure before the adult use program had yet to be launch – that has since happened.

A secondary concern was the state's inventory tracking system had not yet been implemented within the medical program – which created some compliance concerns. With the updated medical rule and the state moving closer to inventory tracking in both programs, those concerns go away.

We know some industry stakeholders are supportive of this measure and others oppose. For that reason, and those stated above, the department is neither for nor against this proposal.

We thank the committee for its careful consideration of this bill, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have for us.