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Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Cross Office Building, Room 215
Augusta, Maine 04333-0013

Dear Chair Chris Caiazzo and members of the Committee,

My name is Ronald Jordan. I live in Portland, Maine at my residence the past 20 years having grown up in the village of Seal Harbor in the Town of Mount Desert, Hancock County. I am a medical marijuana caregiver licensed to grow medicinal cannabis and have been maintaining my license status to grow medicinal cannabis from the inception of the program. I myself use medical cannabis and have maintained an active doctor to patient relationship with Intergr8 Health practice located in Falmouth, Maine. I continue to follow up with Dr. Dustin Sulak, D.O. and his other talented medical staff annually without exception.

I also maintain access to primary healthcare through the Maine Health Insurance Market Place under the affordable care act I have been able to maintain my access to healthcare through some very significant healthcare challenges of my own. As in my earlier testimony I referred to a medical diagnosis of inoperable stage four metastatic cancer that was cleared from medical procedure in Boston. I want to thank the American Cancer Society for help with providing discount fare on the Downeaster for Cancer Treatment, the Medical Teams at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, the robotic surgical teams of Harvard Medical Program of Robotic surgery Dr. Wagner and many others for saving my life and the referrals and professional care of what is now become Northern Lights Mercy Hospital and Portland Internal Medicine.

I have been growing cannabis within the program without remuneration or sales to the best of my knowledge within the rules I am not out of compliance although I have not been inspected by the program, I would welcome a soft review or cordial conversation prior to any threatening enforcement action or inquiry. I think sometimes because cannabis and even medicine in general is misunderstood there is a tendency to avoid any public display of personal use activity. I am concerned about privacy and intrusion into areas where my own ability to manage my own affairs or business activity is disrupted in any way or my directives following.

I also provide a service to a qualified Medicaid beneficiary who's privacy seems to become a point of interest if not for the various medical practice partners that I help navigate an otherwise complex system of access and denial to achieve ongoing well healthcare. A primary patient whom I grow for is a qualified Medicaid beneficiary whom had struggled to gain access to any actual healthcare in a system that has been closed to care. After a long process of legal presentation, professional assessments the determination of disability has been upheld although well health is always a struggle as health issues can stack the deck against us.

I thank you for the opportunity to have come before your committee via zoom on four separate occasions to testify about my experiences with cannabis as I am registered to grow within the Maine Medical Marijuana Program.

There is resistance in government to recognize that in healthcare, the politics between medicine and the State of Maine on how the expansion of access to medical care has been denied repeatedly now the politics of healthcare has been refocused on paying back Maine hospitals with lucrative alcohol contracts as reported throughout the LePage administration. The politics of medicine to flush out income for the State to continue to participate in a recreational market for Cannabis while necessary on the States market opportunity should not be boar oppressively onto a thriving medicinal cannabis market already functioning well. The Maine Care program and public health net of the State needs to be fully served by both the medical and recreational side of marketable trade in the new cannabis industry. In that cannabis marketplace, please allow us to participate in a program that considers marijuana has no value in commodity exchange, so I don't know how you are going to do that.

As I testified earlier my participation in the medical cannabis program has been primarily for single patient or use. It does not go beyond or enter into the sales market or the marketplace although admittedly there finally seems to be a product that's worthy on the shelf that could have a potential for wholesale. Yet I haven't figured that part of it out and the fact is that when you have to struggle for your life and healthcare remains elusive, one doesn't focus on much else at the time. The value of the marijuana product can be considered inestimable beyond remuneration as payment for medical care is often just a token of consideration for the lifesaving treatment.

Cannabis flower preserved and reserved for personal use inventory should be one area of exemption from any sort of growing or inventory requirements. There is a certain level of expectation of professionalism and realistic understanding to work with rural Maine cannabis growers who supply a valuable service and product not only from sharing or other legal avenues to otherwise to furnish flower to those who are authorized of age holding medical clearance to obtain such.

While the income side of the medicinal cannabis industry remains elusive since I do not operate any store front, delivery, sales or marketing nor do I really have any plans for that, I am still unclear how any potential for sales may be credited and considered income against a business where I am led to believe there is absolutely zero offsets of costs to produce revenue. So my full understanding of the impact of being forced into a cannabis market simply because I have found a need to grow a quantity of medical marijuana for future use and consumption in the absence of any initial plans to market anything. Now depending on the opportunity, the time and equipment I have invested in producing products for personal inventory of my cellar. If the potential for any sale would be 100% income because there are no offsets and that's simply not the case within my grow. If my participation in the Maine Medical Cannabis Program inflates an inventory from my grow into a commodity position then I will very likely have to step away from the program because I will not be able to afford to lose my ability to pay for commercial healthcare access.

My final comments have to do with the electronic reporting and data collection systems with inventory management the department is requesting that all medical cannabis growers sign up with, buy into and dial into a software system the department unfortunately has signed into some long term agreement with an outside software firm. While I am in full agreement that marketable product should be entered into an inventory system to trace through the sales and commercial transfers, as well by statute the determination of flower and trim certifications from growers who are licensed should have the

opportunity to develop and maintain their own data information and inventory tracking systems and if the program thinks that it needs all of that excessive information on the production of the flower from seed to harvest, that operation or process whether a simple outside garden or a complicated inside operation with extensive environmental control, it's proprietary and specific to the grower the secrets of any growing operation should essentially remain that way, a secret. Many get by doing just that, keeping their operation and grow hidden. The State, in it's eager wisdom to expose an otherwise legal but secret operation that is already operating in a grandfathered situation becomes vulnerable to complete failure just from the exposure. Products of gardening labor including flower, flower trim anything prior to any extraction I believe should also remain hidden in a medical grow. My opinion is the statute can still be well followed by having the program develop a template for information on ones grow that they are looking for and request if absolutely necessary participants report summary data into a data system that the Department provides at no cost to the participant, open architecture that allows a farmer to report directly through self reporting into the states reporting system and I say this is a difference, a sharp difference from having to pay a monthly fee for a service contract to a corporate organization outside the State of Maine who collect performance data on any grow illegally intruding on insider production performance secrets. All computer collection systems including hardware and the software are all disposable and cost excessively beyond the reach of many small, underfunded operations.

Thank you,

Ronald Jordan