

Good morning Chairperson Senator Louis Luchini and Chairperson Representative Chris Ciazza and the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Susan Meehan from Sweden, Maine in Oxford County. I am also Secretary of the Maine Cannabis Coalition and a founding member of Maine Children for Cannabis Therapy. I moved to Maine in 2013 to access the best medical marijuana program in the country to treat my late daughter Cyndimae. Cyndimae is a legacy, a champion of patient access in several states—google her name, Cyndimae. In my daughter's honor, I am a Medical Marijuana Caregiver currently non-cultivating, who delivers medicine to pediatric patients across Maine. I am in opposition to LD 605, 613 and 525. I support Id939.

## **LD 882, SP 0296, Senator Luchiani, Health Access, Delivery MMJ**

I am opposed to this bill. This bill contains some very strong language all not in favor of protecting our small businesses and patients. It reads similarly to OMP Draft Rules utilizing language such as “without limitation,” and potential fines in excess of \$1000 per minor violation in which a slew of violations could easily result in an insolvent business operation. Anytime the Department can easily place a caregiver business in jeopardy, they place patient access to affordable medicine in jeopardy. Again, Maine Medical Marijuana does NOT have seed to sale inventory tracking but only tracking of transfers/sales. It seems the goals are to eliminate businesses rather than to help them come into compliance. I would love to be involved to develop a more mutually beneficial plan to assist a business to come into compliance. When the industry is over regulated and it is too difficult to comply, the black market will thrive.

I want to talk more about the recent complaint filed by a Maine medical lab regarding marijuana that the LAB owner tested for pesticides – this is a fine example of how our businesses are SELF POLICING. The Lab owner tested and retested this batch prior to processing because it is the LAB OWNER’s SOPS and because the lab owner cares about the safety of his patients. Ask OMP Inspectors about this Bowdoinham lab – this is the premier example of a lab with excellent operating procedures in full OMP compliance. This product was disgustingly contaminated with pesticides and it was a very large batch. Once pesticides are processed through a lab’s ethanol supply, the ethanol is contaminated with those pesticides, so more than one batch can be contaminated. This lab tests every single batch that comes to his lab PRIOR to processing. This is a minimum of a \$200 lab test. We have been self-policing this program since inception, since way back when in 2013 when the closest testing lab was in Providence, Rhode Island. When the Boston hospital tested all 6 of my dying daughter’s medicines for every contaminant under the sun, the only positive was her THC tincture and her THC rescue tincture which appropriately tested positive for THC. The incident in Bangor was a big news story – and amazingly, the product tested clean. The user did not even know what product (Shatter vs Wax) he was in possession of – user error. To reiterate, Acadia’s product in Bangor tested clean. I am opposed to the merger of Medical and Adult Use.

I was present at these Stakeholder meetings Nov 12, 2020 in which Director Gunderson testified about, and there was NO CONSENSUS. When the present Caregivers would not agree to removing RESIDENCY requirements for Board members of Maine marijuana businesses, the other side basically walked out. When we would not agree to releasing the residency requirements, all communication and all compromise was removed from the table and Hannah King and Dan Walker indicated that we were wasting their time and all discussion ended. We are finished with deals with the lobbyists that only serve to eliminate caregivers to further their monopoly. We built this industry despite paid lobbyists.

The program, the Department of Agriculture already polices this and requires cultivating caregivers to pass a stringent pesticide application class and test. A few bad players do not have to make the good ones suffer. Education is key – not excessive fines and holding licenses. Hold more classes!

### **LD 881 DAFS Bill**

24” was not a random number. As Director Gunderson said, we discussed this last year at the Stakeholder Meetings and we in no way agreed that we should change from the 24” current rule of law. This is an annual event, an attack on Maine’s second largest industry built by Maine caregivers. AS we said last year and the year before, change Adult Use Law to align with the successfully operating Medical if you wish.

The Committee should really review testimony from LD1539 (2017-18). The definition of seedling was argued to be appropriate at 24” because this is an approximate size in which a grower can sex, prune and clone a plant. Prior to this, a plant is not clearly male/female, is not large enough to prune and clone and is basically a baby, ie a seedling. Until the plant can be sexed and cloned, it is unable to reproduce and it is clearly a seedling. Year after year, Caregivers must defend the same argument in our State House. Per proper English, using the word in its own definition is taboo to say the least. Would we define a human child as “A human child is a human child that is not a mature human child?” The bill proposes that we define an Immature marijuana plant as follows: 4-N. Immature marijuana plant. "Immature marijuana plant" means a marijuana plant that is not a mature marijuana plant or seedling. "Immature marijuana plant" does not include hemp as defined in Title 7, section 2231, subsection 1-A, paragraph D. I strongly oppose this bill. This bill and its language and content is a fine example of how the Department wishes to whittle away at the Medical Marijuana Program as the Department attempts to merge medical and adult use. Please kill this bill in committee deeming it ought not to pass.

### **LD 1029, SP 0324, Senator Luchiani, Taxation of Marijuana**

This bill facilitates the sale of mj plants, seeds, flower and trim (WHY?) to a licensed cultivation facility. I do not understand why a licensed cultivation facility must be allowed to purchase flower and trim (and then represent this flower and trim as their own cultivated product?). Grow your own or go home.