

Jared Bornstein  
Maine Cannabis Coalition  
Support 1242

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and esteemed members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I am here to represent the Maine Cannabis Coalitions emphatic support for LD 1242. This bill is something that is necessary, including the emergency preamble.

First, this bill changes the designation of Medical Marijuana rules from routine technical to major substantive. While it may seem like a lot to ask for every rule to come before your committee, we feel that it is more to ask that Maine caregivers be totally shut out of the process that is regulating their livelihoods. There has been much angst already aired in this committee and to its members privately, about the rules. So, I will trust that our education campaign on why the rules need to be rethought, suffices. We are not opposed to regulation. We are opposed to undue regulation set forth by the executive branch and its appointees who have never relied on a crop to feed their family. We want the due process that is afforded to other industries, and to be heard fully in the legislature. OMP has severed the bridges of good will between itself the smallest caregivers, and we want the elected government to step in and have a say in this rules process.

Second, this bill establishes a holistic framework for a collaborative process to regulate this industry. Bringing caregivers, patients, physicians, and other experts into the process can only stand to let voices which are now silenced, be heard. If a well written and adhered to rule is the goal, this is the path toward it. Too often the people with the least access to power, the least voice and the least means to enact change are the ones who the burden of over or bad regulation fall onto. The legislature must do its duty and protect these most vulnerable caregivers and patients by giving them a direct voice into the rulemaking process.

The difference between good regulation and bad regulation, is that good regulation allows businesses who are doing the right thing to showcase that while bad regulation seeks to create arbitrary lines that must not be crossed. As is the case here, these rules create a situation where caregivers are presumed guilty and must prove themselves innocent. We must correct this, and create a rule which validates good business practices and remediates bad ones. Our goal as a state should be to support small, local business and not create solutions for problems that do not exist. Please, pass LD 1242.