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Support for LD 1319

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazza and trusted members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I am here today representing the Maine Cannabis Coalition in support of LD 1319. This bill is not designed to stop or hinder the rule making process that OMP is currently engaged in, rather to allow more cooperation and data to inform that process. It would slow down the rule, but that extra time would be used to conduct an economic and patient access study. This makes sense, with such an outcry of reasonable fear and concern over the impacts to our smallest caregivers, we need to do the best that we can on this rule. It will likely be with us for years to come, and taking some extra time to evaluate the proposals and collect data can only be a good thing.

This bill also extends the sunset clause for issuing dispensary permits to residents only. This is simple, Mainers should have the first shot at dispensary permits. They have not been issued while the sunset clause is in effect, so the sunset clause should get extended so as not to allow out of state interests and large corporate entities to completely control Maine's dispensary permits. This is a Maine industry being supported by Maine consumers- residents of the state should have the first opportunity for a coveted dispensary license. I ask that the committee consider this proposal closely, then pass it for the future of the cannabis industry.