



## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

### In Opposition to

*LD 1319, An Act Regarding Registered Dispensaries and Rules under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act and the Definition of “Resident” in the Marijuana Legalization Act*

April 30, 2021

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Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Kate Dufour and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1319 on behalf of MMA’s Legislative Policy Committee.

Of greatest municipal concern is the provision in LD 1319 that delays and limits the ability of the Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP) to adopt necessary rules. As the enforcement agency, OMP needs to retain all of the resources necessary to quickly respond to issues as they arise. Without this authority, the interests of the medical marijuana industry will supersede those of the state and its responsibility to protect the interests of all residents, business owners and guests.

Additionally, efforts to slow or frustrate state level rulemaking authority will have an adverse impact on local level regulatory authority. If the bill is enacted, municipal officials are gravely concerned that all the time and effort put into developing necessary ordinances will be all for naught, and the actions of communities to protect their residents’ interest will be challenged in court. From the municipal perspective, the bill presents a means for shifting decision making authority away from the communities’ residents and into the hands of the industry.

Municipal officials urge the members of the Committee to oppose LD 1319 and preserve state oversight authority and local level decision making authority.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the municipal perspective on this issue.