

April 23th, 2021

John Engler
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To the Esteemed Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is John Engler and I reside in Lewiston. I grew up in Bowdoinham. I am a Medical Marijuana Caregiver and the owner of High Sail Medicinals and the Above Board Caregiver Storefront in Auburn. I am also a founding member of the Maine Craft Cannabis Association, a diverse group of independent professionals and activists committed to defending and strengthening an authentic and responsible craft cannabis industry in Maine.

I testify before the Committee in **support of LD1242** and **opposed to LD1445**

LD1242 is necessary to block OMP rules changes and get stakeholder input

- This moratorium is necessary to impede the OMP's disastrous proposed rules change, which would impose excessive costs and regulations on Caregivers
- Rule changes favor transnational and out of state corporations and would adversely impact rapidly growing Caregiver industry in Maine that has created thousands of jobs and locally owned new businesses
- OMP developed the rules with little Caregiver and Patient input, mostly consulting consultants and lobbyists.
- OMP has ignored mandate to do an Economic Impact Study to understand the potential impact of these rules locally-owned Caregiver industry
- Rules changes are actually major substantive rather than routine technical changes and require Caregiver and Patient input, and legislative review
- Mandatory tracking is not mandated in the Statute and is therefore an illegal provision

LD1445 is not the best way to protect public health and safety and should be rejected

- Mandatory testing is required by 1445 but there is no public health crisis - people are not getting sick from cannabis in Maine
- Testing is shown to be unreliable and there isn't scientific consensus around limits and tolerances
- Mandatory testing would be a logistical nightmare for producers in far rural areas and Northern Maine
- Serious lack of testing capacity in the state to process required volumes
- Increased costs would ultimately be borne by patients, so instead let them choose voluntarily tested medicines if they wish to pay for it
- Pair voluntary testing with OMP random sampling and testing to get same level of confidence in the safety of the medical cannabis supply without the high cost and logistics burden of a mandatory testing program

Thank you for your consideration on these perspectives.

John Engler