STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF MARIJUANA POLICY
162 STATE HOUSE STATION
19 UNION ST.
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0162

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

KIRSTEN LC FIGUEROA
COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF MARIJUANA POLICY

ERIK GUNDERSEN
DIRECTOR

April 23, 2021

Re: LD 1434, *An Act Regarding Controlled Entry Areas Within Retail Marijuana Stores*

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

I am Erik Gundersen, Director of the Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP), and I am before you today to provide testimony on behalf of our office in support of LD 1434, An Act Regarding Controlled Entry Areas Within Retail Marijuana Stores.

This bill would address an issue that was identified by our office and your committee during the legislative public hearing on the major substantive Adult Use Marijuana Program (AUMP) Rule promulgated by our office two years ago. At that time, OMP had include in our provisionally adopted AUMP Rule the concepts of "public access areas" and "age restricted areas". The public access area was intended to be a part of an adult use marijuana store licensee's "licensed premises" where interested consumers could enter the premises and have their age verified before entering the age restricted area. These public access areas were intended to be free from any marijuana or marijuana products, but they would have afforded consumers the opportunity to have their age verified inside the building used for retail sales and out of the various weather conditions Maine has to offer throughout the year.

Upon legislative review, it was determined that "public access areas" were not permitted by the Marijuana Legalization Act and the law would need to be changed in order for consumers to have their age verified inside the licensed premises. This bill does just that and our office supports this change.

We thank the committee for its careful consideration of this bill and we are happy to answer any questions you may have for us.