

Kevin McAloon
Kennebunk

Hello members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee. My name is Kevin McAloon. I am a resident of Kennebunk and registered both as a medical patient and a licensed caregiver in the Maine Medical Marijuana Program or MMMP.

My company, Canneutics, LLC, has been manufacturing formulations for patients since 2013. We have quality control and quality assurance processes in place to implement a clean supply chain for all product lines. This includes 3rd party testing for contamination and potency for every lot of medicines we produce.

I am also a volunteer member of the Seed2Health Learning Health Alliance where I am working with others to shape standards, practices and, someday soon, services to support something we call "learning health." I am bringing to this group the perspectives of a medical cannabis manufacturer.

L.D. 1242 asserts that there should be proper oversight of MMMP. As with L.D. 1319, the bill calls for deeper understanding of the MMMP - whether in conjunction with a well-considered economic impact assessment and/or more thoughtful engagement of those in the MMMP which I strongly support.

Perhaps the most important insight I can share today is that when it comes to medical cannabis...patients lead the way. This reality and the lessons we are learning together with our patients are not reflected in MMMP rules as proposed by OMP. Perhaps most importantly, the costs of implementing the proposed rules can not be sustained by the patients who will be asked to pay them. The absence of Medical Providers in the development of these rules is also a serious oversight. These providers and their patients work routinely with me and other caregivers and understand the "medical" within Maine's robust medical cannabis market.

I have first-hand experience with patients and how cannabis oils allow them to reach their healthcare aspirations. What we've discovered together is that formulations - usually involving very low doses of THC - facilitate their goals of achieving relief from many health ailments.

When I became involved in medical cannabis in 2013, my late wife was battling breast cancer. Her experience was the catalyst guiding the remainder of my life's work. One important trait she identified early and continues to be shared among many patients is the desire for relief "without being high all day". My late wife gave me some parameters for her treatment plan that continues to benefit patients with whom we work:

1. She wanted clean medicine
2. She wanted measured doses in capsules
3. She didn't want to be high all day

An important fact to note is that the whole plant medicines derived from cannabis are varied and powerful. Varied because there are many strains of cannabis each expressing a different form of natural medicines that benefit the human condition, both known and unknown, in many ways. It is this genetic diversity that drives the caregiver community's desire to have many cannabis gardeners producing a wide variety of medicines. Genetic diversity is also something each caregiver takes pride in by producing various choices for their patient community.

In closing I would like the committee to take these testimonies into consideration and realize that the patient community needs a place at the table. Patients have been leading the way and from what I can see they will continue on this path. Seed2Health is an archetypical organization that is moving Maine and possibly the nation toward a robust solution inline with mandates to reform our healthcare system. Our goal is to implement learning health and teachable medicine using cannabis medicines as a catalyst.

Supporting Written Testimony

One of the oversight problems needing to be solved is the ability to have affordable testing to validate a clean supply chain for the manufacture of clean cannabis medicines. As a Seed2Health alliance member and manufacturer of clean medicine, I envision a statewide

exchange for medical harvests that would facilitate a proper affordable (at scale) testing program for cannabis gardeners while still achieving wide scale genetic diversity. The exchange would occur at the manufacturer's location and would implement the "testing gate" through which all clean cannabis would flow. Some exchange products could be manufactured into clean medicines or alternatively exchanged to other seed2Health members always knowing the materials have been fully tested by the exchange. To make this work we would need market wide collaboration which is already happening at a smaller scale among caregivers.

At seed2Health we promote helping our citizen patients learn what works and what doesn't. This is achieved through learning health and teachable medicine. I believe the government is by the people and for the people. Prohibition of cannabis has had an adverse affect on this edict. We have the opportunity to change this relationship between our government and the people now, by working in concert with one another to understand the application of cannabis as a medicine. We need to be working hand-in-hand with the public and private sectors to achieve amazing results in our learning health journey.

Patient testimony - Bruce DuCharme penned by Sarah DuCharme

Summary:

My husband is disabled due to severe Ankylosing Spondylitis. The GI symptoms that it caused were devastating; he suffered through 5 years of daily nausea, vomiting, severe fatigue, and profound weakness. We went to multiple specialists and endured 15 prescription drug trials, 4 procedures, and found no relief. On a whim he tried Canneutics ReLeaf Ratio CBD Dominant 1:5 - and it has completely changed our lives! 3 months in and feels fantastic. In addition to complete relief from his nausea/vomiting, he also has much more energy and is much less depressed. We are so grateful to Mac and this amazing company!

Detailed:

Testimony for Canneutics ReLeaf Ratios CBD Dominant 1:5 Ratio:

My husband is a disabled veteran and he has suffered in pain for years. His condition, Ankylosing Spondylitis, is similar to Rheumatoid Arthritis - but in addition to bones and joints it also affects organ systems. The symptoms that bothered him the most were the GI symptoms. He suffered through almost 5 years of daily nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and weakness. As the years went on, he fell into a deep depression. We went to countless specialists and tried over 15 different prescription drugs. Some of the drugs helped initially, but he was back to his usual illness within a couple of weeks each time. We met providers that cared, but simply didn't have the tools to help. We also met providers that questioned if his symptoms were real or psychosomatic. At his worst, after forty-five pounds of weight loss and profoundly weak, he sought a provider for medical marijuana. He learned of Canneutics at a vendor fair and bought a two - week supply. After the first few days he was feeling better! We didn't think it could be from the CBD. It seemed impossible that after all of the physicians, specialists, procedures, imaging - the answer could be that simple. Not believing that the Canneutics was helping, he stopped taking it when the supply ran out. Sure enough, within a couple of weeks his symptoms returned. A few months later, we skeptically purchased more Canneutics ReLeaf Ratio and tried again. On the first day, he felt less nauseous and had a lot of gurgling and stomach turning. On the second day, he had minimal nausea and moved his bowels several times. On the third day, and every day since, he actually had NO GI SYMPTOMS. It is a miracle for our family! He has been on it for 3 months and everything has changed. Now, my husband has rediscovered his love for life. He expresses excitement about the future. His energy level has improved to almost what it was prior to his illness - he has actually begun several home improvement projects and is feeling 'fantastic'. In my husband's words "This medication saved my life. I was so weak, so tired, the only future I could see was more suffering. I still have some aching in my knees and back. I can live with that. I am going to appreciate each and every day that I feel this good."