



The Healing Community MEDCo

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Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Support of LD 1249 and LD 1434, and Concern Regarding LD 1319, LD 1242, and LD 1452

Dear Senator Luchini & esteemed members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

It is my opinion and the opinion of my company that LD 1319, LD 1242, and LD 1452 ought not to pass; and LD 1249 and LD 1434 ought to pass.

LD 1319 is the bill that would enact a cap on the number of dispensary licenses. This is a trend that the state has already been heading away from. Portland just lifted their cap on retail licenses, and the state already intentionally lifted the cap on dispensary licenses. To reinstate the cap, albeit at a slightly higher number, would be regressive and would serve no purpose. The only companies that would benefit from this are those currently holding the eight dispensary licenses. The caregivers and the patients would be the ones to suffer. Many caregiver businesses may be better suited to convert to the dispensary model, and would be unreasonably blocked from doing so. Any business that meets the criteria for becoming a dispensary should be allowed to do so. If these businesses are hindered from making the business choices that would be best for them, the patient is the one who ultimately is left with a hindered market to shop in.

LD 1242 is an attempt to slow down the coming of a fully regulated market. All of the areas in which OMP is implementing rules are areas in which OMP was granted authority to do so by the referendum vote. The rules are routine technical, and the efforts to reclassify the changes as major substantive, combined with the efforts to revert the rules back to 2018, are driven on resistance to change and resistance to a regulated market. A regulated market is necessary in Maine if but for the sole purpose of reducing youth use.

LD 1452 is redundant and overburdensome. The industry already has strict advertising rules to adhere to. Requiring a permission form from the Department is a major hoop to jump through for something as routine and frequent as marketing, and is not required in any other industry in Maine, including the alcohol industry. OMP already has a path to punish businesses who break the marketing rules, therefore LD 1452 is unnecessary.

LD 1249 is a common sense bill. Testing is necessary for public safety, and this bill is well written to avoid redundancies. Under this bill, each product will be tested before it hits the consumer, and cookies made in the medical edible market will have to pass the same standards as cookies made without cannabis. As an edibles producer, a restaurant owner, and an advocate for food safety, there is no reason why this bill should not pass.

LD 1434 is another common sense bill that ought to pass. When the rules were written, it was not anticipated that the District Attorney would interpret load-in rooms for checking IDs to be illegal. Nobody under the age of 21 is allowed on the licensed premises of a retail store, which means all IDs have to be checked outside the licensed premises. This is simply not viable during cold days in Maine. LD 1434 needs to pass so that people may come inside to show their ID.

I appreciate your careful consideration. There have been quite a few cannabis bills lately, and we could not be more thankful for your time. The changes we are trying to make and the changes we are trying to prevent are big changes, and taking the correct action is necessary to having the best cannabis program we could possibly have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex McMahan', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Alex McMahan
Owner
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