



UNITED CANNABIS PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MAINE

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LD1319

Chairperson Senator Luchini, Chairperson Caiazzo and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, good morning and thank you for hosting this hearing. My name is Susan Meehan from Sweden Maine, and I represent **United Cannabis Patients and Caregivers of Maine dba Maine Cannabis Coalition**, of which I am the Chairperson. The Coalition represents a significant portion of Maine's voting population encompassing Medical Marijuana Patients, Caregivers, Employees and Medical Professionals.

LD1319 Creates a 2 year moratorium on the proposed department rules. It should be clear to the Committee that there are serious problems with how the medical program has been treated by the fact that there are two bills that cite major issues that call for a stop, pause and reset to rulemaking. Rulemaking improprieties and illegalities seem to be plaguing Maine's government this year. Following 13 out of 15 other states, such as Oregon and Washington state where the inception of Adult Use marked the decimation of their state's medical programs, Maine's Office of Marijuana Policy should not be hiring the authors of these state's medical programs' destruction.

When I speak about this section, I have to speak of the man laying in a hospital bed who caught this problem, who took this problem to heart last year in my living room. Last year, when we first starting discussing the next legislative season, Dawson Julia discovered this issue in Maine statute and started investigating. Dawson noted that the Department has not followed through on the intent and purpose of Maine Title 22, Chapter 558c, paragraph 2428 A. When the State issued the initial 8 dispensary licenses, there were several Maine citizens who wanted a dispensary license but did not win one of the coveted 8. Per statute, the Department was mandated to issue six additional licenses. A. in this paragraph reads, "...the Department shall issue 6 dispensary registration certificates to applicants that the department determines meet all the criteria of the rule." SHALL.

This bill also asks the Legislature to extend the residency clause in Title 28 to 2025. The residency requirements of Adult use Chapter 28 were enacted by people's referendum in 2016. Adult use finally came to sales in 2020. Since inception of sales was delayed four years in program administration, this would do as the people intended and give our citizens time to secure healthy, operating businesses in Adult Use should they so choose. Please listen to the will of Maine's citizens.

Annually, great stress is caused to our patients by the constant onslaught upon access to safe medicine. This is an annual attack triggering patients and families with enough stressful burdens. This program has proven itself safe, compliant, operational and profitable. Give these patients and their families a break please. The Maine Cannabis Coalition urges the VLA Committee to deem this bill LD1319 ought to pass. Thank you Senator Poulliot for sponsoring this bill and thank you to the VLA Committee for your time and consideration.

Susan Meehan, Chairperson for United Cannabis Patients and Caregivers of Maine 207-861-1945