

130th Legislature
**Senate of
Maine**
Senate District 12

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**Testimony for
LD 1242
"An Act To Ensure Appropriate Oversight of Maine's Medical Marijuana Program"
And
LD 1249
"An Act Regarding the Testing and Safety of Marijuana and Marijuana Products"**

Good morning Sen. Luchini, Rep. Caiazzo, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Dave Miramant, and I proudly represent all of the people of Appleton, Camden, Criehaven, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Muscle Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owl's Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Union, Vinalhaven and Warren in the Maine Senate.

I come before you today to testify on these two bills.

We only have a medical marijuana program because people persevered against laws inappropriate to this harmless plant being classified as a dangerous drug. The willingness of people to use common sense against those inappropriate laws during the 100-year "war on drugs" resulted in the recognition of the benefits that had been occurring in those who used marijuana to help medical conditions.

Because of this, many states ignored the federal laws that still misclassify marijuana and started programs that help millions of people with chronic medical conditions. In some cases, the maladies that marijuana treats successfully had lingered for years and been exacerbated by the medical system that uses very dangerous and often inappropriate drugs for treatment.

I have watched over almost 20 years as our Medical Marijuana program became a model for other states as they developed their programs. This is because we got it right and allowed caregivers who had a stake in their communities and with their patients. If any tweaking of the laws needs to be done it needs to be done by the same process that created the program which is the legislative process. It should also be done in the legislative committee that has jurisdiction over health and healing and that is not VLA. The fact that VLA has been made the committee of oversight shows that we are still blinded by the previous misclassifying of marijuana as a dangerous drug.

The Office of Marijuana Policy wants to make changes to a successful program based on advice from groups tied to big tobacco. We will continue to see pressure to make anything related to marijuana a profitable commodity that only large conglomerates can service if rules such as OMP proposed are allowed to creep into our laws. There is no way to look at the changes that are proposed by the OMP and say that those are Routine Technical changes. That's why these bills are so important to maintaining the integrity of our Medical Marijuana caregiver system.

The people of Maine said they wanted the Medical Marijuana program to be a holistic and healing process. They took it away from law enforcement but law enforcement doesn't want to let go. We don't need an oversight process that even big pharma, alcohol and tobacco are not subject to. We need to do appropriate and thorough reviews in a way that honors a healing profession run by professionals.

Thank you for your consideration, I am glad to answer questions if I can.