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Maine Growers Alliance

www.maine growersalliance.com

Testimony: LD1242 An Act To Ensure Appropriate Oversight of Maine's Medical Marijuana Program

To: Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee

The following document is an accumulative response from the members of the Maine Growers Alliance, an industry group made up of cannabis industry stakeholders from around the state of Maine.

As a group of cannabis business professionals, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the LD1242 and hope that we can work together with the Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee to maintain a high functioning, safe, progressive, and successful Medical cannabis industry that supports not only our members, but the entire state and its patients.

Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions or further need for clarification.

Best,

Eben Sumner

Maine Growers Alliance

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Growers Alliance in support of the passage of LD1242: An Act To Ensure Appropriate Oversight of Maine's Medical Marijuana Program.

This bill is a direct answer to the overly ambitious push from the Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP) to overburden Maine's small medical cannabis businesses with major substantive changes that are untested and unsupported through quantified and qualified data.

- These proposed rule changes would also:
- Damage the well-being and health of tens of thousands of Maine citizens by restricting their access to safe and affordable medicine; and
- Do economic harm to thousands of caregivers, employees, and their families; and
- Do irreparable harm to the economy of the State by destroying businesses owned and domiciled in the State to the benefit of companies that are not based in the State and will not reinvest in this State; and
- Impact the most vulnerable communities in this State the hardest, including rural municipalities with aging populations; and
- Make major changes that warrant legislative involvement and oversight; and

In the judgement of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

The requirement to add registered caregivers, patients, physicians, and certified nurse practitioners to the rulemaking process makes perfect sense. The current agents making decisions over the medical program do not have any farming or medical experience. This seems counter intuitive to creating fair and realistic rules. Rolling back and resetting is the right move forward to creating a fair and equitable program. Requiring approval from the legislature is much needed oversight to protect the program from outside interests like the OMP's current consultants who are hired by Philip Morris and Molson-Coors, whose bias can be seen in the proposed rule changes as well as in the adult use program. The retroactive nature of this bill provides a clean slate for rulemaking moving forward.

We support the elimination of the requirement set by the department to develop and implement a statewide electronic portal through which registered caregivers, dispensaries, testing facilities and manufacturing facilities may submit certain records to the department, and to complete an annual audit conducted by a 3rd party of business transactions.

We support adopting routine technical rules and listed exceptions to the rules as defined in:

Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2.A

- Rulemaking
- Enforcement and Compliance
- Fees
- Medical marijuana research and grant program established
- Repeat Forfeiture
- Department suspension or revocation

