



UNITED CANNABIS PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MAINE

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LD1242

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 Acting Chairperson. The Coalition represents a significant portion of Maine's voting population as Medical Marijuana Patients, Caregivers, Employees and Medical Professionals including nearly 100,000 patients encompassing medically fragile children and Veterans who have fought for our country who use a plant to treat our diverse conditions.

We support LD1242 as a clear and effective measure to protect Maine's Medical Marijuana Program. Current Maine statute only allows the Office of Marijuana Policy to create "routine technical" rules that are not subject to legislative review. The Draft Rules published by OMP are clearly substantive in nature having enormous fiscal impact upon thousands of small businesses in Maine in the marijuana industry and in the ancillary industries we support. OMP has been very silent in response to industry leaders, our attorneys, and our constituents. At the same time, while our representatives, some in this room, want to intervene, current statutes do not have a clear method on how this would work. This bill would solve a host of problems including this very big problem.

This would give rulemaking oversight to our elected representatives. These issues with improper rule-making seem to be a pattern in Maine recently. Look up other cases of Department overreach in Maine in regard to a recent court case about Kennebec River Dams and another about the State Police and the Bangor Daily News. Additionally, this bill will mandate that industry stakeholders have seats at the rulemaking table. To meet compliance proposed by this Draft Rules in their entirety would close the doors of thousands of small businesses in Maine in this important revenue producing industry. These are small businesses, many operated by families in traditional mom and pop Maine style, that put food on the table for many of our citizens. Please support this bill deeming it ought to pass unanimously.

The Coalition supports this bill in its entirety. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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