



United Cannabis Coalition of Maine
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Thank you Representative Rachel Talbot Ross for suggesting this amendment to the Marijuana Advisory Commission.

- My name is Susan Meehan, and I am Chairperson of the United Cannabis Patients and Caregivers of Maine, dba Maine Cannabis Coalition. I support LD 1589 as it seeks inclusion of actual stakeholders in the program on this advisory board; however, I suggest that we could really make a difference if we also consider assigning some real work, and consider implementation of a Medical Marijuana Advisory Board.
- According to public record, this current Marijuana Advisory Commission met once on October 24, 2019 for 2 hours. Maine Title 28-B, Chapter 1, Subchapter 9 indicates that "...the commission is created for the purpose of conducting a continuous study of the laws relating to marijuana and reporting to the legislature its findings and recommendations on an annual basis. No news to report?"
- While the commission has little real power, they seem to have skipped their annual meeting in 2020. Maybe they had trouble with their wifi signals like I often do.
- It seems that this Commission has no authority, and very few responsibilities.
- Currently, OMP creates rules in disregard of Maine's Title 5 by hiring outside of Maine consultants to write rules that impact Maine citizens and Maine's real stakeholders. Activists such as the Coalition of which I am Chairperson are begging for your help, doing the real research, and reporting, while this advisory commission whose job it is to advise the legislature has held one meeting.
- OMP and the corporate giants that lead them are laughing at you as they attempt to muddy the waters and not allow you to do your jobs. They lie to you repeatedly, as they lead you to sell out Maine to giant corporate marijuana interests owned by people in other countries.
- I beseech you to please be Maine's champion, please listen to us, and please do not sell out our programs to giant corporate interests whether in adult use like this commission, or in our medical program for which I fight to protect.
- At the current time, this commission is a mention on a resume – the commission would have to assemble and work to accomplish anything. Perhaps the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee should assign some real tasks to the Commission as they consider appointment of some real stakeholders. I am not saying this out of disrespect. The Commission truly has no power, no authority, and not much of a job per statute, and it seems they do not perform the one job they have. Appoint fewer political resume appointees, multiple patients, multiple caregivers, healthcare professionals who certify patients, a dispensary owned by someone other than Acreage Holdings... Then assign them some real work.
- Thank you for your time today. Thank you, Representative Ross, for putting forth this bill. I hope the legislature can reform this commission into a real working body that can protect Maine as we grow this rapidly developing industry and try to keep some funds from it here in Maine's local economy. Please do the right thing.

Susan Meehan

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