



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association,  
Maine Medical Association, and  
Maine Osteopathic Association**

**in Opposition to:**

**LD 929: An Act to Increase Access to Medical Cannabis for Seniors and Veterans**

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs  
State House, Room 437  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Good morning, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. On behalf of Maine Public Health Association (MPHA), Maine Medical Association (MMA), and Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA), we write in opposition to LD 929: “An Act to Increase Access to Medical Cannabis for Seniors and Veterans.”

MPHA is the state’s oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. MPHA represents more than 850 individuals and 70 organizational members across the state. MPHA’s mission is to advance the health of all people and places in Maine. MMA is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA’s mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. MOA is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

LD 929 would entail military veterans and older adults (“seniors”) to be eligible patients for Maine’s medical cannabis program without a valid written certification from a medical provider.

We’re not entirely sure which problem this bill is trying to solve. Maine’s medical cannabis program is already available to these populations. The eligibility criteria for getting a medical cannabis card are already broad;<sup>1</sup> and given the increased health risks faced by older adults<sup>2</sup> and veterans,<sup>3</sup> having a conversation with their healthcare provider to check on medication interactions or counterindications is in the best interest of their health and safety.

In light of existing access to the medical cannabis program for these populations, and the importance of having a bona fide relationship with medical providers for their higher-risk health needs, we ask you to please vote “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 929. Thank you for considering our testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> See Statute here: <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/22/title22sec2423-B.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Jaul E, Barron J. Age-Related Diseases and Clinical and Public Health Implications for the 85 Years Old and Over Population. *Front Public Health*. 2017 Dec 11;5:335. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2017.00335.

<sup>3</sup> Olenick M, Flowers M, Diaz VJ. US veterans and their unique issues: enhancing health care professional awareness. *Adv Med Educ Pract*. 2015 Dec 1;6:635-9. doi: 10.2147/AMEP.S89479.