

Paul McCarrier
Monroe
LD 948

Good morning Chairman Hickman, Chairwoman Suppica and honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee, my name is Paul T. McCarrier and I operate a vertically integrated medical cannabis company in Mid-Coast Maine. I am testifying in support of LD 948 "An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis"

I believe this bill is an important step forward bridging the gap between caregivers and dispensaries, along with freeing up OCP staff if they only have to approve registrations every two years.

By allowing 1,000 square feet of flowering space, you can encourage greener cultivation by making outdoor and greenhouse growing more to scale. At the current 500 square feet, or 30 flowering plants, we find many caregivers are unable to yield enough, or grow a large varieties for their patients annually with a single outdoor grow. This will allow those caregivers to hopefully grow enough to provide for the full year, instead of having to grow indoors. As you know, growing indoors is incredibly energy intensive and costly.

Over the past three years, the annual registration renewal has become increasingly burdensome, complicated and detail oriented. This policy decision by OCP has lead to some caregivers considering leaving the program or having to temporarily suspend their operations as they worked with OCP, which takes up significant time for both the business and OCP. By allowing the registration to be renewed every two years, it will free up OCP staff to focus on different, more pressing tasks, while allowing a business to have a better sense of stability. As other agencies have streamlined registration and license renewals, OCP has gone backwards.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional information.