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LD 948

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 948, which aims to reduce administrative burdens and expand access within Maine's cannabis laws.

This bill proposes to increase the cultivation limit for medical cannabis caregivers. This change is particularly beneficial for small businesses, especially those reliant on Maine's single outdoor growing season due to our long winters. By allowing these caregivers especially to cultivate more plants during this limited timeframe, they can better meet patient demand and sustain their operations throughout the year.

This also allows the small businesses as a whole to stay competitive with larger businesses with larger canopy allowances. Particularly multi state operations. A small business may have their canopy allowance full indoors due to the year round productivity, but now will be able to have a seasonal outdoor crop as well without having to shut down indoor operations to make room on their canopy square footage. This increase options for patients as well and due to the lesser overhead growing outdoors, may also increase affordable options for some patients as well while preserving quality.

Additionally, extending the caregiver license renewal period from one to two years, with automatic renewals for those without violations, significantly reduces the administrative burden on both caregivers and the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP). This change allows caregivers to focus more on their businesses and patients, while enabling the OCP to allocate resources more efficiently, improving overall productivity.

I urge the passage of LD 948 to support small businesses and adapt our cannabis laws to the unique agricultural conditions of our state.