

MARCH 24TH, 2025

MAINE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS & LEGAL AFFAIRS [VLA]

SUBJECT: LD 1038

SENATE CHAIR HICKMAN

HOUSE CHAIR SUPICA

SENATE MINORITY LEAD CHAIR TIMBERLAKE

HOUSE MINORITY LEAD CHAIR BOYER

DISTINGUISHED VLA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY FULL SUPPORT FOR LD 1038. I AM TESTIFYING TODAY IN MY ROLES AS A PATIENT, A STORE OWNER, AND A CAREGIVER. THIS BILL WILL HELP IN ALLEVIATING FINANCIAL BURDENS FOR PATIENTS WHILE STILL ENSURING ACCESS TO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS FOR CERTIFICATION RENEWALS.

AS A PATIENT, I DO NOT FIND A YEARLY RENEWAL NECESSARY. CANNABIS IS A NATURAL MEDICINE THAT AFFECTS EVERYONE DIFFERENTLY, JUST LIKE ANY PRESCRIBED OR OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION. PEOPLE EXPERIENCE VARYING LEVELS OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE DEPENDING ON HOW THEIR BODIES REACT. OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINES CAN INTERACT WITH PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS, YET CAPABLE ADULTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO CONSULT A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL FOR EACH PURCHASE. THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIMENTATION AND TRIAL AND ERROR, I'VE LEARNED TO FIND WHAT WORKS BEST FOR ME. IF A PRODUCT DOESN'T HELP WITH MY ARTHRITIS PAIN OR SLEEP, I DISCONTINUE ITS USE AND TRY SOMETHING ELSE, JUST AS I WOULD WITH ANY OVER-THE-COUNTER OR PRESCRIBED MEDICINE.

AS A CAREGIVER, I USE MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, THE EXPERIENCES OF MY OTHER PATIENTS, AND MY RESEARCH ON CANNABIS INTERACTIONS WITH PHARMACEUTICALS TO GUIDE MY PATIENTS TOWARD BENEFICIAL PRODUCTS. I ASK QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR NEEDS AND TO DETERMINE IF A PRODUCT MIGHT HELP OR HARM THEM.

AS A STORE OWNER, I TRAIN MY STAFF TO DO THE SAME. WE ARE A BUSINESS, AND REPEAT CUSTOMERS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SUSTAINABILITY. I WOULDN'T REMAIN SUCCESSFUL IF WE ROUTINELY SOLD PATIENTS PRODUCTS THAT DIDN'T HELP OR COULD POTENTIALLY HARM THEM.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY TESTIMONY.

IN MY CAPACITY AS BOARD CHAIR OF MMCM, WE WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT YOUR REQUEST FOR ANY CANNABIS BILL WORK SESSIONS TO ANSWER ANY DETAILED QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

KINDEST REGARDS,

**Tammy Smith**

**Board Chair, MMCM**

**Caregiver, Retail storefront owner of Gram's Five & Dime**

Tammy Smith  
Detroit  
LD 1038

Please accept my apology for my previous submission. It was a document in the process of being edited and was accidently uploaded