

Nathan Berube
Falmouth
LD 104

Date: May 4, 2025

Presented by: Nathan Berube Small-Scale Medical Cannabis Caregiver

Honorable Members of the Maine Legislature,

My name is Nathan Berube, a small-scale medical cannabis caregiver from Falmouth, I have been serving patients since 2019 with chronic conditions from my home garden. In that time I have built a successful brand with my products being sold in the best stores throughout southern Maine. I am the sole proprietor and lone employee of the company handling every aspect of my business. I oppose LD 104's mandatory testing requirements because education, not costly testing, is the better solution to ensure safe cannabis while preserving patient access.

My rigorous sterilization and clean cultivation practices—sanitized grow spaces, filtered air systems, and pesticide-free methods—produce safe, high-quality cannabis. I voluntarily test when feasible, but LD 104's mandate, with costs of \$20,000-\$50,000 annually, would force me to raise prices or close, limiting medicine for my patients. Maine's five labs can't handle the volume, risking delays and higher costs. The Office of Cannabis Policy's 2023 study inflates risks without evidence of widespread harm. Instead of testing, invest in caregiver education on sterilization and safe practices. Training programs would empower small caregivers to maintain safety without financial ruin. LD 104 threatens patients' access to affordable medicine, pushing them to costlier or unregulated sources. Please reject or amend this bill to prioritize education over testing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nathan Berube