

Nathan Berube
Falmouth
LD 1840

Date: May 5, 2025

Presented by: Nathan Berube, Small-Scale Medical Cannabis Caregiver, Hash Works
Honorable Members of the Maine Legislature,

I am Nathan Berube, a small-scale medical cannabis caregiver from [Your Town/County], operating Hash Works from my home. For five years, Hash Works has thrived, providing safe, pesticide-free cannabis to patients with chronic conditions. I strongly support LD 1840 (S.P. 723), which amends the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, as its provisions reduce regulatory burdens, enhance flexibility, and protect patient access for small caregivers like me.

Section 6 (22 MRSA §2422-A, sub-§3) prohibits the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) from requiring caregivers to use department-issued forms or issuing mandatory guidance documents unless explicitly authorized. This eliminates bureaucratic hurdles, allowing Hash Works to comply with regulations using my existing record-keeping systems, saving time and costs while maintaining my sanitized grow spaces and voluntary testing practices.

Section 10 (22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§2, ¶O) explicitly authorizes caregivers to sell cannabis at trade shows, festivals, or through delivery and private arrangements. This flexibility enables me to reach more patients directly, expanding access to my tailored, high-quality products without needing a costly retail storefront, which is critical for my home-based operation.

Section 24 (22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§14, ¶D) prevents the OCP from publicly posting caregivers' nonconfidential information, such as cultivation addresses, except upon request. This protects my privacy and security as a home-based caregiver, reducing risks of theft or harassment while I serve patients.

Section 26 (22 MRSA §2429-D) deems caregivers compliant with municipal approval requirements if previously denied registration solely due to OCP form issues or municipal ordinance delays, allowing renewals without these barriers. This provision ensures small caregivers like me, who faced such denials, can continue operating, preserving patient access to affordable medicine.

By streamlining regulations and prioritizing caregiver autonomy, LD 1840 supports the 106,000+ patients relying on small caregivers. The bill addresses concerns from the OCP's 2023 study about compliance challenges without imposing costly mandates, fostering a sustainable medical cannabis program. I urge you to pass LD 1840 to empower small caregivers and ensure equitable patient access.

Sincerely,

Nathan Berube

Hash Works

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