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LD 104

Subject: Testimony Opposing LD 104 – An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis

To the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Adam Blais Jr., and I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 104 – *An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis.*

While this bill is presented as a step toward patient protection, it would in practice ****undermine access to safe, natural medicine****, impose ****unsustainable costs on caregivers and cultivators****, and introduce ****corporate compliance systems like Metrc**** that have already failed in other states. If passed, LD 104 would not protect patients — it would ****price them out****, eliminate small producers, and reduce the quality and diversity of medicine available in Maine’s respected caregiver market.

****1. LD 104 Will Drive Up the Cost of Medicine for Patients****

The cost of mandatory batch testing, tracking software, RFID tags, and regulatory compliance will be felt first by caregivers, and ultimately by patients. In a program designed to provide affordable, clean medicine to people with chronic conditions, disabilities, and limited incomes, increasing the price of that medicine is fundamentally unjust.

Patients are already navigating economic hardship, healthcare gaps, and the high cost of living. For many, medical cannabis is not an alternative — it is their ****primary medicine****, and often the only thing that effectively manages their condition. LD 104 would make it harder for caregivers to operate and ****force patients to pay more or go without.****

****2. Metrc and Corporate Track-and-Trace Systems Have Failed Elsewhere****

LD 104 would set the stage for implementing Metrc, a corporate track-and-trace system used in states like California. There, it has ****enabled diversion, corruption, and fraud — not prevented it.**** Despite its promises of transparency, Metrc-tagged cannabis has been found diverted across state lines, and enforcement is inconsistent and ineffective.

High-profile operators in California have exposed how easy it is to manipulate Metrc — from underreporting yields to lab shopping — while ****small, compliant operators are buried in fees and red tape.**** This system has no place in Maine’s caregiver-driven, relationship-based medical model.

****3. LD 104 Threatens Sustainable and Regenerative Cannabis Cultivation****

Many of Maine’s small growers use methods aligned with ****DEMPure certification, regenerative agriculture principles, or MOFGA-style organic stewardship.**** These cultivators rely on ****no-till living soil, natural inputs, and closed-loop ecological systems**** to grow clean medicine while improving the land.

Requiring them to tag every plant with petroleum-based plastic and navigate corporate software systems is not just burdensome — it’s ****completely contrary to their environmental values.**** These farmers aren’t the problem — they’re leading the way in sustainable medicine.

****4. This Bill Disrupts Patient-Caregiver Relationships and Eliminates Choice****

Maine’s medical program is unique because it allows patients to build long-term, personal relationships with caregivers who understand their specific needs. These caregivers grow ****small-batch cultivars tailored to individual symptoms****, and many patients rely on strains or formulations that are ****not available**** in the adult-use market.

LD 104 will force many caregivers to shut down or change drastically, meaning patients lose access to the ****exact medicine they’ve come to depend on**** — medicine that may have taken years to fine-tune.

****In Conclusion:****

LD 104 is a step in the wrong direction. It imposes a corporate compliance model on a medical program that already works. It threatens organic and regenerative growers, increases plastic waste, and shifts the financial burden onto the patients — all in the name of “safety,” while embracing a system like Metrc that has ****failed in other states.****

If we truly care about public health, we should be ****protecting patient access, preserving caregiver autonomy, and supporting ecological cultivation**** — not making medicine more expensive or harder to obtain.

Please vote ****NO on LD 104**** and defend what makes Maine’s medical cannabis program one of the most effective and compassionate in the country.

Sincerely,
Adam Blais Jr.