

Testimony of Jamie Comstock,
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May 5, 2025

Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Testimony in Support of:

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

LD 1847: An Act to Institute Testing and Tracking of Medical Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products Similar to Adult Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products, Dedicate a Portion of the Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax to Medical Use Cannabis Programs and Create a Study Group

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Jamie Comstock. I am a resident of Orono, I have worked in substance use prevention in Maine for 19 years and have closely watched as Maine and other states across the country have rolled out medical and retail cannabis markets.

I am an advanced certified prevention specialist and served as a prevention stakeholder on the Office of Cannabis Policy's Medical Marijuana Workgroup in 2021 and Cannabis Hospitality Task Force in 2024.

I am submitting my testimony as a prevention professional and not on behalf of an organization. I am providing testimony in support of LDs 104 and 1847.

LDs 104 and 1847 will greatly improve Maine's Medical Cannabis program by:

- Mandating testing of products in the testing in the Medical Cannabis Program for potentially harmful contaminants like pesticides, heavy metals, and mold.
- Establishing a maximum potency of THC in edible products in the Medical Cannabis Program similar to what's already in place in the Adult Use Program.
- Forming a study group to examine youth cannabis use and evidence-based ways to prevent and reduce high-risk use.
- Diverting a portion of the current Adult Use cannabis taxes toward public health and safety awareness and education.

- Requiring that edible gummies sold in the Adult Use Program that aren't stamped or embossed with the Universal Symbol be sold in blister packaging to reduce the risk of accidental ingestion.

These are guardrails that the public health community would like to have seen in the program at its inception.

Since the large-scale rollout of cannabis programs nationwide, medical and community professionals who work with youth have been sounding alarms about youth exposure to high potency THC and its impact on mental health. Establishing THC limits in the medical program and the study group to examine youth cannabis youth are two steps in reducing this risk for youth.

Mandatory testing of medical products will provide parity between the retail and medical programs, and assure consumers that their products are safe and will cause them no contaminant-related harm.

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1847 and LD 104 to improve safety and transparency in Maine's cannabis programs. These long-overdue reforms are essential.

Thank you.

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