

Josh Drew
Dialed In Farms LLC
LD 104

To the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Josh Drew, and I am the owner and operator of a small, caregiver-run craft cannabis business here in Maine. I am writing today in strong opposition to LD 104.

Let me be clear: I support the goal of patient safety and responsible cannabis production. But LD 104, as written, would have devastating consequences for small producers like myself and threaten the very existence of Maine's locally grown, patient-centered medical cannabis program.

Mandatory product testing, while well-intentioned, is prohibitively expensive for small operators. The infrastructure and cost required to test every batch of product — often several strains, grown in small quantities — will turn a once-viable livelihood into a financial burden we simply cannot bear. Unlike large-scale operations with economies of scale, we do not produce massive, uniform batches. Instead, we focus on small, carefully curated crops to meet the specific needs of our patients.

Current testing fees in the state average around \$500 per sample — and every distinct strain, harvest, or product requires its own individual test. As a small producer operating a couple 8-light rooms with 10 or more strains per cycle to meet patient needs and market demand, I could be facing over \$5,000 in testing costs per harvest. That's before factoring in potential failed tests, resampling requirements, or lost product — expenses that small businesses like mine simply cannot absorb.

Now consider my passion: pheno-hunting and breeding unique genetics. My current pheno-hunt room includes 76 individual female plants, each representing a distinct cultivar. Under this bill, if I wanted to legally share or offer even retail small amounts of these phenotypes to patients for feedback, I'd be looking at \$38,000 in testing fees — just to share the fruits of innovation and craftsmanship.

This bill doesn't just threaten small businesses — it threatens the creative engine behind Maine's rich cannabis genetic pool. If passed, it will stifle experimentation, limit patient access to novel and effective cultivars, and destroy the very innovation that sets Maine's medical cannabis program apart.

Let's not forget: the medical cannabis program in Maine was built by caregivers — people like me — who have cultivated strong relationships with patients, often serving individuals with chronic conditions who can't afford high retail prices. LD 104 effectively imposes the same regulatory burden on a homegrown industry as it does on multi-million dollar recreational operations. That is neither fair nor sustainable.

This bill would force many of us out of business. It would eliminate patient choice, raise prices, and concentrate market power in the hands of a few large producers — the opposite of what Maine voters and patients have supported for over a decade.

Instead of this one-size-fits-all mandate, I urge the committee to consider alternative solutions — voluntary testing incentives, patient education, or tiered testing requirements based on business size and output. Protect patients, yes — but don't destroy the small businesses and caregivers who've been the backbone of this industry.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspective of Maine's small cannabis producers.

Sincerely,
Josh Drew