

Justin Irie
Arundal
LD 104

Dear Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

I urge you to reject LD 104, a bill that, despite aiming to protect medical cannabis patients, imposes oppressive regulations that exacerbate health disparities and economic inequities for marginalized patients and small caregivers, while raising concerns about OCP Director John Hudak's ties to Freedman & Koski and METRC, which profited from \$630,000 in state contracts and a \$890,000 track-and-trace deal, suggesting cronyism. The bill's costly testing and tracking mandates (22 MRSA §2429-E, §2430-J) will inflate prices, limit access for low-income patients, and burden small businesses, unlike the Maine Department of Agriculture's equitable \$50 frozen dessert license with state-funded testing.

Instead, adopt a state-led, randomized testing program to ensure safety without financially crippling caregivers, using independent testers to avoid conflicts of interest, thus upholding social justice, accessibility, and transparency for Maine's diverse cannabis community.

Sincerely,
Justin Irie