

Testimony supporting LD1840

Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Virginia Milton and I live in Gardiner. I am submitting testimony in support of LD1840.

The medical cannabis program is an asset to our state and the patients who benefit from wide variety and high quality cannabis at reasonable prices. The program is vital to so many and should be protected. As stands there are lots of areas in the guiding rules that leave room for clarification.

I believe that LD1840 would go a long way to clarify and simplify the Maine Medical Cannabis rules. Confusing, misleading and outdated language that leaves room for misinterpretation is replaced with well thought out simpler and up to date language.

There is a lot covered in this bill and all of it together creates much needed clarity about the program.

One item of huge importance addressed in this bill has to do with CGR, RIC and dispensary information being posted on a publicly accessible website. There are so many reasons that this should not be done. Simple respect for Maine citizens and their privacy is top of the list. I did some searching and correct me if I am wrong but I do not believe there is any other industry in Maine that is subject to this treatment other than the members of the legislature who opt into the public eye. Making such a list public and easily findable opens people on the list up to all sorts of things and it should not be allowed.

The farmers market and event item is important. Participating in farmers markets and events is something that should be allowed. The language used in LD1840 outlines the requirements of documenting transport of cannabis products and creates a clear description of what is involved.

Setting up the medical cannabis research program is important for medical cannabis caregivers and patients. Scientific findings of such research will serve the medical cannabis community; improving it and helping determine future directions for the industry and deepening knowledge for better patient care. With our long established medical cannabis program it makes sense for Maine to be a leader in scientific research on cannabis. In so doing, more jobs are created and more business are drawn to the state.

I respectfully ask for you to vote in favor of LD1840. Thank you very much for your time and your service.