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LD 1672

LD 1672: Ought to Pass

LD 1672 frees cannabis businesses from the burdensome mandate to use METRC, a flawed track-and-trace system, allowing them to maintain effective internal inventory systems. This bill is essential to protect caregivers and reduce unfair regulatory costs.

I oppose forcing cannabis businesses to use a faulty track-and-trace program. METRC faces lawsuits nationwide for failing to prevent cannabis diversion to illegal markets, tracking errors, and data security breaches, as well as using outdated RFID plant tags to prioritize vendor profits over functionality.

Cannabis businesses should maintain internal inventory systems, auditable by the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) during inspections, as LD 1672 permits. This aligns with standards in industries like retail or agriculture, avoiding over-regulation.

I oppose taxpayers funding METRC contracts; cannabis businesses should solely manage their inventory to meet legal standards. Unlike cannabis, retail businesses fund their own inventory systems, sparing taxpayers.

As a caregiver assistant, I have firsthand seen a caregiver retail store unable to operate due to METRC system outages, severely impacting small caregivers' revenue.

Cannabis businesses already maintain effective inventory and sales tracking, making METRC's mandate redundant. I urge the committee to pass LD 1672 to ensure fair regulation and support Maine's cannabis industry.