

Amy McFarland
Caregiver
LD 1717

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen of the Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Amy McFarland.

I run Independence Farm with my husband.

Today I am testifying in opposition to LD# 1717.

(An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers)

This bill requires anyone applying for or renewing a registry identification card or registration certificate under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act to submit to a criminal history record check.

I am not aware of any other type of farmer or farm employee in Maine that is forced to get a background check.

Now, if it is a school policy that those who enter school grounds regularly must have background checks, then I am sure many in the community would agree with that. Children need to be protected!

I suggest killing this bill, and then have the schools set a policy in place instead. Requiring a background check to all who enter school grounds regularly sounds like a better idea.

As for this issue with the 'Long-term care facility', if they have a policy about background checks for their employees and subcontractors I can understand requiring one from an individual within the cannabis industry too. Perhaps if a caregiver is going to be on their grounds for more than a week then they are required to have a background check.

This should be determined between the facility and the cannabis business, the state shouldn't be interfering.

With that said, I ask you all to vote "No" on LD# 1717.