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January 10th, 2018

Good afternoon DHHS Committee,

I am testifying on behalf of Medical Marijuana Caregivers of Maine Trade Association in full support of LD 1539 and against LD 1527 (as it is inappropriate to combine medical and adult use) and LD 1135 (over regulation, creating criminals out of caregivers instead of businesses).

The MMMP has been operating under LD 1296 since 2011. After years of practical application, it is clear that adjustments are needed to our laws. This bill was created by going through each part of our current law and making adjustments that are needed for better patient access, better business practices for our caregivers and to further reduce the stigma faced by those who participate in this program. As well as better working relationships and department officials. 1539 addresses many concerns some have about our program it provides for-record keeping , inspections and better regulatory oversight while still improving business practices for caregivers and better patient access. Key components that are very important:

Allow the Practioner to decide what additional conditions may be benefited by cannabis certification.

Lift limit on employees as no other industry is restricted on employee count as long as the employee can pass background check-

Allow caregiver to caregiver sales to provide safe continued access for patients-

Remove the attachment of caregiver cards to patients, instead attach to existing plant count allow caregivers to serve the number of patients they can serve with that plant count-

Maintain patient and caregiver privacy-

Written inspection plan that allows participants to know what to expect, protect grows from cross contamination and to keep consistent practices across the board-

I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Catherine Lewis-Board Chair

MMCM Trade Association

Winthrop, ME