

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Member Organizations:

Franklin Community Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family:

MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates:

MaineGeneral Health
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Lee Cyr Synernet/MaineHealth In Opposition to LD 942

An Act to Require Reimbursement for Medical Marijuana March 14, 2019

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Joint Committee on Insurance Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Lee Cyr, a resident of Gorham and the Director of Workers' Compensation Administration for Synernet/Maine Health. I appear before you today in opposition to LD 942.

In my capacity with Synernet/MaineHealth, I oversee the handling of claims for the MaineHealth Workers' Compensation program, a self-insurance trust providing coverage to all of MaineHealth's Maine based employers. We also administer the workers' compensation program for the Synernet Workers' Compensation Fund, a self-insured group of 11 hospitals spread out across the State of Maine.

I urge the Committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 942 because the Maine Supreme Judicial Court has already spoken on this issue in the Bourgoin case. In that case, the Court ruled that as long as marijuana remains a Schedule 1 drug under federal law, an employer/insurer cannot be forced to pay for medical marijuana. The Court determined that the State could not force an employer or insurer to violate federal law. Passage of this legislation will only invite further litigation on this issue, litigation that will likely only lead to the same decision the Court has already made.

Although the Bourgoin addressed this issue in the context of workers' compensation, I would expect that the ruling would apply to other types of insurance as well.

For this reason, I urge the committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 942. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.