



**Testimony of Becky Straus, Legislative Director  
In Support of HB 3460  
House Committee on Health Care  
April 8, 2013**

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

HB 3460 establishes a system under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program to license and regulate the estimated 150 or more medical marijuana facilities operating in Oregon today, allowing patients, growers and medical marijuana facilities to legally work together to ensure that patients have safe access to medicine they need. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today in support of the bill.

Voters approved the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) in 1998. The purpose of OMMA was to permit Oregonians suffering from debilitating medical conditions to be able to use marijuana to relieve their symptoms without being in violation of Oregon criminal law.

HB 3460 enables a legal and regulated means of getting authorized amounts of marijuana to OMMA patients who cannot grow their own. Licensing and regulating medical marijuana facilities provides consistency across the state in the practices of dispensaries and the law enforcement agencies' interactions with these services. The result will be better care and better outcomes for patients.

We thank the proponents for bringing this bill forward and thank the Chair for hearing the bill today. We urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to be in touch at any time with questions or comments.