

Testimony Supporting HB 2919
House Health Care Committee
April 8, 2013

Chairman Greenlick and House Health Care Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing HB 2919--I appreciate your efforts and willingness to help many in need.

I will always remember the day I was in the doctor's office and the doctor yelled at me that my 20 year old son would die if he didn't eat! I had just lost a child and the thought of losing another was unbearable. I thought marijuana would help but that option wasn't available. The doctor prescribed Marinol. My son could only eat after he took the medication but it still didn't work very well. He was 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed 105 pounds on a good day. I could not understand why society would keep from my son the only thing that could save his life, cannabis.

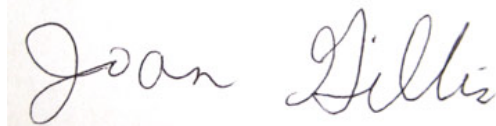
From what I observed, my son could eat and looked healthy if he used marijuana. When Marinol was the only option available, he continued to have eating problems. The benefits of Marinol were very mild and clearly insufficient. I only recently understood why as I learned how the cannabinoids mimic the properties of the many endocannabinoids in our body that regulate so many of our processes including appetite regulation, moods and sleep.

We promote non-smoking methods of cannabis use and have been inspired by the research of Dietary Raw Cannabis Specialists who incorporates the benefits of the entire plant by juicing it. Please support more research into varying ways to use the plant.

The miraculous healing properties of this plant need to be understood and shared now to alleviate much unnecessary suffering. I appreciate your taking the time to change and correct the policies that have prevented healing. Thank you and good luck.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony, I'd ask you to assign HB 2919 to a work-session and then support it with a "Do-Pass" recommendation. I believe HB 2919 is the best legislative solution for Oregon and I believe you will too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Gillis". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Joan Gillis