

**Testimony Supporting HB 2919
House Health Care Committee**

April 8, 2012

Chairman Greenlick and House Health Care Committee Members, I thank you kindly for your time and your work on behalf of the people of this great state of Oregon.

Thank you for hearing HB 2919. I very much appreciate you taking a look at this important issue.

Other states have chosen to regulate marijuana like alcohol. That has proven a mess. Marijuana is not alcohol. It should not be regulated like alcohol.

Any informed citizen, knowing that “marijuana is coming”, would surely like to see a “fit-to-purpose” program created, this session, that treats marijuana just like what it is... marijuana. That is exactly what HB 2919 does.

Many approaches to this topic are far too invested in their preconceived notions and end-goal focused to intelligently design a program that address marijuana specifically... otherwise wouldn't that program already exist? While keeping the end goal in mind is very important, at this time what is needed is to build a foundation on which a successful program can operate. HB 2919 is that platform... which allows for a successful program and promoting future success.

Unlike the current OMMA and OMMP, HB 2919 is not purely concerned with placing a heavy burden on physicians to determine what is proper use (assuming they already know what is proper use in the first place) for a patient. This bill goes back a step and helps physicians determine what proper use is within an overall program that is evidence based, transparent, traceable and driven by scientific research.

Chairman Greenlick and House Health Care Committee Members, please pass this bill.

Thank you kindly for your time.

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