

Testimony Supporting HB 2919  
House Health Care Committee  
April 8, 2012

Thank you for hearing HB 2919.

I support HB 2919 because I believe that providing exemption from criminal prosecution to scientists wishing to research marijuana for medicinal purposes will enable an improved and science based approach to medical marijuana administration.

Through this law, which allows for controlled and protected research settings, researchers will be able to link particular cannabis genetics and environmental effects to patient specific ailments and outcomes in a much more robust way than has been realized to date. Further, the development of research quality growing sites, cannabis data collection and classification methods, and development of in-situ and ex-situ diagnostic instrumentation resulting from passage of this bill will not only enable such research but also provide new business opportunities to Oregonians. In the long term, these business opportunities can be expected to extend past the borders as the export potential on both the agricultural and technological side of cannabis products and expertise could be tremendous. By passing HB 2919, Oregon has the opportunity to be the first state to truly embrace scientific research into cannabis.

HB 2919 is important to Oregon and the Nation because it sets an example for medical marijuana laws by allowing for and encouraging medical marijuana research. This can be expected to provide a spark toward scientific inquiry and discovery in the use of cannabis and ultimately tangible benefits to patient health. I believe the successful implementation of a science based medical marijuana program could even result in wider benefits to the field of pharmacology.

I urge you Chairman Greenlick and your Health Care Committee to schedule a HB2919 work-session and find in favor with a "Do-Pass"

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rigel Woodside", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rigel Woodside, PhD