

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

My name is Dr. Jacob May. I am a medical professional in the field of sports medicine and chiropractic care. Over the past two years, I have been introduced to the OMMP format of medical marijuana, because my father has been in need of managing his pain. A carpenter for over thirty years, he has destroyed his body with intense manual labor in order to feed his family, leaving him to deal with a varying level of pain on a daily basis. He has severe allergic reactions to codeine, morphine, and most NSAIDS, extremely limiting his pain management abilities in the current medical system. He chose to medicate with alcohol, which has damaged his body to the point that he can no longer take even limited ibuprofen. The overall use of alcohol has brought about gout - one of the most painful types of arthritis that I can think of. This led us to the choice of medical marijuana to control his pain, and keep him functional.

We were disgusted with the ability to procure effective medicine. When we did find effective medicine, consistency was an obvious lacking feature, as it was very difficult to find the same medicine again. With the number of OMMP cards currently authorized, it seems that the medical marijuana system is simply used to disguise the black market. I think gardens should be certified. I think there need to be standards and state regulated testing. I think those who truly need this medicine should be able to access a consistent medicine suitable for mitigating specific issues. There are real patients out there, like my father, who have a need for this medicine.

House Bill 2919 is based on a program solving the problems and lack of data in the OMMP, it is the vehicle to take care of these issues. This plant, this potential medicine, needs to be researched. Oregon has the capacity to facilitate this research and increase the consistency of medicine and quality care through professionalized production and distribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. May, DC', with a small black dot to the right of the signature.

Jacob May, DC