

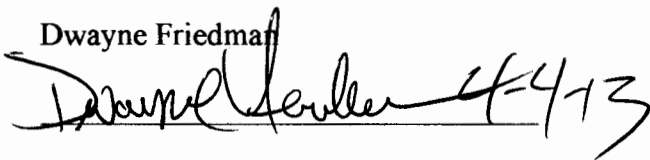
This letter is in regards to House Bill 2919. My name is Dwayne Friedman, I have been on the medical marijuana card for almost 10 years now. I got on the card after being assaulted and having my mandible shattered. I was taking liquid vicodin when I was released from the hospital. That medication made me not want to eat, or leave my house. It also cost me over \$800 a month. After getting myself off the vicodin and on medical marijuana my quality of life drastically improved.

Vicodin is a medication with tons of research, and tons of side effects! I feel that if there was research done on cannabis plants people would have enough information to form an opinion. Patients would also have access to information on the specific strains that will help them. Many people have never used marijuana, so how can they be expected to make a educated opinion? By giving them the proper information provided by a credible source. Having the right information gives people that are both on and off the card valuable knowledge. The state of Oregon would benefit greatly from medical marijuana research.

If a patient can get into a database and look up their condition and find out what strain others with the same condition are using, how great would that be? Not all marijuana is the same, in fact none really is. So again having the proper information would help a lot of patients find more relief. Or allow a person without any experience to understand why someone like me chooses cannabis over pharmaceuticals. Proper research could help many people live a much more functioning life.

Another way research could help is with supply of medicine. I have had several growers over the years, and have heard every excuse in the book as to why I'm not getting the proper amount of medicine from a particular crop. Research would give growers the information they need for specific strains. This would allow the grower to have a much better idea of the amount to be harvested, nutrients needed, temperature the plant likes, and many other variables. Proper research, and the education of both growers and patients would also help to cut down on the number of patients on the street purchasing their medicine illegally: Saving tax dollars and helping the citizens. I only see benefits for passing House Bill 2919.

Dwayne Friedman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwayne Friedman" followed by the date "4-4-13". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.