



April 8 2013

From: Stormy Ray Cardholders' Foundation

Please support HB 3460

Hello, my name is Jerry Wade and I am here representing the Stormy Ray Cardholders Foundation.

Over the past 14 years SRCF has actively supported and defended the right to use Medical marijuana in Oregon. As many of you know, Stormy Ray was the chief petitioner for measure 67 that created our program. In 2005 SRCF helped pass SB-1085 that dramatically improved our law by setting reasonable limits and reducing the possibility of abuse within our program.

There have been many attempts to create a marijuana supply system in Oregon, but until now, SRCF has been unable to support any of them. Past proposals have failed to protect the interests of patients. These attempts have primarily concentrated on generating tax income and profit, and have not focused on providing affordable medicine for the patients that use medical marijuana.

Many medical marijuana patients live in HUD housing which bans growing medical Marijuana. Other patients simply don't have the space needed for a garden or are physically unable to grow their own. SRCF estimates almost half of our OMMP registered patients don't have a consistent and affordable place to get their medicine.

If excessive fees are allowed to drive up the price of our medicine, OMMP patients will continue to purchase from the black market, or more likely, go without, thus defeating the purpose of this legislation. To suggest there is a shortage of marijuana in Oregon is laughable. The problem is that most patients cannot afford the current prices.

Often, the most disabled OMMP patients have the least access to the medicine they need. Most patients need two to three ounces of medical marijuana per month. Marijuana sold at dispensaries can cost \$200 per ounce or more, yet it can be produced for under \$50 per ounce.

SRCF would like to see language added to HB-3460 allowing patient collectives or Co-ops. Patients should be allowed to join together to produce their medicine, and allowed to sell their excess medical marijuana to other patients at Co-op prices. Patients would need the ability to have a non-residential group garden to produce medicine. We do not believe HB-3460 would prohibit Co-ops, but we would like to see additional language assuring the ability of patients to work together to produce their medicine at the lowest possible price.

God Bless,

Jerry Wade
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Stormy Ray has been active in the movement to legalize marijuana for the purposes of medical treatment for over a decade in Oregon. She was a Co-Chief Petitioner for Measure 67 that became the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) in 1998. The Stormy Ray Cardholders' Foundation is a non-profit Oregon medical marijuana information and support organization dedicated to helping patients utilize this law. Recently retired, Stormy has served on the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) Advisory Committee. She served on the Oregon State Rehabilitation Advisory Council for two Governors and the Federal Disabilities Determination Advisory Board for four years. She is currently the president of the Stormy Ray Cardholders' Foundation (SRCF),