

Mr Chairman, members of the committee, good afternoon.

My name is Jim Greig. I am a member of the Board of Directors for Voter Power Foundation, and an Organizer for Americans for Safe Access Three years ago I was the CoDirector of the Regulate Medical Marijuana PAC for Measure 74.

I would like to take a moment to thank the committee for holding today's hearings. With the nation all abuzz over legalization, I feel it is important that efforts like today's, to improve the OMMP, continue.

In 1994 I started shopping at the nation's first dispensary, the Cannabis Buyers Club in San Francisco. Since then I have visited dozens of dispensaries from San Diego to Seattle. During the Measure 74 campaign I had the pleasure of speaking about dispensaries to 100's of patients throughout the state. I'm here today to share what I have learned.

OMMP cardholders who have absolutely no chance of ever growing our own, find the current laws extremely frustrating. The program has its good points, but the supply of marijuana – our medicine –

for literally thousands of OMMP patients, has been sadly lacking since the program's inception.

For patients in need, this creates a Catch 22. You see, it is this lack of medicine that prevents many patients from utilizing cannabis' preventive and healing qualities to address the major medical problems we patients face. Medical conditions so severe that they prompted us to get our OMMP card in the first place!

Most frustrating for cardholders is that we have the legal right TO POSSESS a pound and a half of marijuana, but no legal means TO PURCHASE a single gram.

For patients like myself, who can't grow their own, I CAN NOT emphasize enough just how much this bill will help us find consistency in supply both in availability and in quality control.

Over the years, I've seen volunteer growers come and go with quality ranging from excellent to poor – or even non existent.

HB 3460 doesn't break any new ground. As of today Washington DC and 18 states allow the use of medical marijuana. 8 states have medical marijuana

legislation pending, and Rhode Island became the 11th state to allow dispensaries in April.

It is my understanding the bill's intent is that the fees charged to these facilities will MORE than cover their operating costs. In the past, the state has been able to withdraw surplus funds from the OMMP for use in other critical areas not associated with the Health Authority.

I understand there are some concerns on financing the bill's start up costs. You'll be pleased to know that the OMMP bank account balance hasn't dropped below \$2 million dollars in the last year.

We hope that you use that available cash balance as HB 3460 is implemented. But, once again, we believe the fees MUST cover the ENTIRE COST of the program to place no additional burdens on the OMMP, the Health Authority, or the state's general fund.

HB 3460 is a fair balance of meeting patients' needs with responsible regulation. A key component that should appease law enforcement requires the tracking of all of the medicine that comes in and what goes out ensuring that the marijuana comes

from registered grow sites and only goes to registered patients.

For patients safety, we like that the bill requires testing for molds, fungus, mildew, and pesticides and calls for sufficient onsite security.

We appreciate that it is a simple bill that gives the Health Authority sufficient rulemaking jurisdiction to make changes as the program grows and as issues arise.

Legalization may be right around the corner, but we patients need a better program NOW. This bill is a big step towards that goal.

As you consider how you are going to vote on this bill, I would like you to think of me. Allow me safe access to the medicine I need.

Please give HB 3460 your DO PASS recommendation, and help move this bill forward as quickly as possible.

Thank you.