

To: Senate committee members.

From: Jerry Wade.

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(Supporting Senate Bill 281)

Good morning my name is Jerry Wade, and I'm with the Stormy Ray Cardholders Foundation.

As many of you probably know, Stormy Ray is this chief petitioner for the ballot initiative that began Oregon's medical marijuana program in 1998.

In 2005, the Stormy Ray Cardholders Foundation, while working with the Oregon State police, was able to pass SB 1085. We were able to make significant improve our law for the patients that utilize our program.

Stormy asked me to personally apologize that she was unable to attend this important hearing this morning, but living across the state, has made it difficult for her to attend today.

Stormy Ray sat on both of the previous Health Department panels organized to discuss adding PTSD to our list of qualifying conditions in the past. Both times Stormy voted to add PTSD to our list of conditions.

Politics however won out over reason, and PTSD was unable to be added.

As a service-connected disabled Veteran myself, would like to personally thank the members of this committee for taking up this important issue that has affected so many of our veterans returning home.

I would like to share with this committee some important information that I think is relevant to this issue.

18 service members commit suicide every day in America. PTSD is killing more soldiers than bullets.

According to the National Academy of Science the current pharmaceutical drugs available for treating PTSD are no more effective than placebos for most of our veterans.

The Honorable Francis Young, The head administrative law judge for the DEA quotes from the 1988 court docket (86-22)

“In strict medical terms marijuana is far safer than many foods we commonly consume. For example, eating 10 raw potatoes can result in a toxic response. By comparison, it is physically impossible to eat enough marijuana to induce death. Marijuana in its natural form is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man. By any measure of rational analysis marijuana can be safely used within the supervised routine of medical care. [DEA Administrative Law Judge - 1988]” — Francis Young

I believe it is important to weigh the evidence.

There is literally no chance of overdose, or negative side effects associated with using medical marijuana to treat PTSD.

It is widely reported by our veterans that use medical marijuana that they are experiencing significant relief, In contrast to the pharmaceutical drugs which they take that do not help.

We cannot continue to allow our heroes to return home and commit suicide when there is a safe effective treatment for their PTSD.

Thank you for considering SB 281.

God Bless
Jerry Wade