



Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse
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Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

Dear Senators,

I write regarding SB-281, the proposal to add PTSD to the list of qualifying conditions for the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP).

I am the executive director of Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse (MAMA). We are a 30 year, educational, nonprofit organization. Our approach is based on personal responsibility and informed decision making, with respect for human dignity. We teach people a process to weight the benefits versus the risks of all drug use. Sometimes 'risks' include the effect of the laws, which are sometimes more severe than the actual use of a drug. Such is the case with medical cannabis.

MAMA staffs three clinics in Oregon to help those who want to register with the OMMP. We educate them about where to get the information about possible interaction with other drugs and medicine they might be taking. They are introduced to the various forms of cannabis medicine and the onset and duration of the effects, which differ depending on the method of delivery. They learn about the rules of the OMMP, so they can be compliant and stay protected.

We communicate with over 6,000 patients. Too many of them suffer from the effects of PTSD. Since medical cannabis became legal, I have seen a remarkable increase in the number of patients who have discovered that treatment with cannabis for a qualifying condition also helped them control the problems they were having with PTSD.

An effort has been made to add PTSD to the qualifying conditions, but it was doomed to fail, due to an unfair process. At the hearings (3) the room was full and the last day the public was allowed a couple of minutes to testify. I had expected a number of veterans to give testimony, but I was surprised and disturbed by the testimony I heard from people who had experienced trauma not war-related.

There is ample evidence that cannabis helps people with this condition. The use of cannabis is not life threatening. Compared to other widely available and extensively advertised drugs, cannabis is relatively benign.

I hope you will have the insight and compassion to add PTSD to the qualifying conditions of the OMMP, thus providing relief to many suffering patients.

Sincerely,
Sandee Burbank, Executive Director
Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse
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