

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 6 - 3 - 0
Yeas: Clem, Harker, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Weidner, Greenlick
Nays: Conger, Kennemer, Thompson
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Tyler Larson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/15, 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands debilitating medical condition list to include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for the purposes of authorizing medical use of marijuana.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current process for adding qualifying medical conditions to Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP)
- Medical evidence of cannabis as an effective treatment for PTSD
- Personal stories of treating PTSD with medical cannabis
- Comparison of medical cannabis to other common treatment methods for PTSD

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) was approved by Oregonians in November 1998. OMMA is a state registry program located in the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The program pursues administrative streamlining processes in an effort to allow qualifying patients access to medical marijuana while maintaining a high level of confidentiality. Multiple states have requested information on Oregon's program to use as a model for their own medical marijuana initiatives and registration systems.

The National Institute of Mental Health defines post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as an anxiety disorder that some individuals get after experiencing a dangerous event. When in danger, it's natural to experience fear. This fear can trigger many split-second changes in the body to prepare to defend against the danger or to avoid it. This "fight-or-flight" response is a health reaction meant to protect a person from harm. But in PTSD, this reaction is changed or damaged. People who have PTSD may feel stressed or frightened even when they're not in danger.

Senate Bill 281 adds PTSD as a debilitating condition recognized for treatment under the OMMA.