

Testimony in support of SB 460 as amended

I wish to convey my support for Senate Bill 460 and its amendment to allow an existing medical marijuana dispensary to continue doing business at its licensed location when a school locates within 1,000 feet of said location after the dispensary was established. This is a simple matter of fairness. I can't think of another, similar situation in which an existing business would be forced to move as a consequence of an after-the-fact decision such as this.

Veneta has one dispensary, Oregon's Herbal Remedies LLC, which has operated at the West Lane Shopping Center for approximately one year without incident. A charter school, West Lane Technical Learning Center, has recently opted to locate in the same shopping center next school year because its lease on the local high school campus was not renewed. At the time that decision was made, their board of directors was not aware of the impact of current regulations that would require the dispensary to move and, apparently, was not concerned about its proximity.

I am aware that the dispensary is regulated by Oregon Health Authority and not OLCC, but I think it is relevant to note that the liquor store in the same center is located within a few doors of the future school, and would not be required to move.

The dispensary's young entrepreneur has invested over \$50,000 in the facility, through personal savings and a business loan. He tells me that because he expected to remain in this location for a long time, he invested in top quality materials and equipment. In fact, there is no other location within Veneta's city limits where he might reasonably expect to relocate and even if there were, moving his newly established business would impose an undue hardship.

While I am specifically concerned with the unfairness to Veneta's licensed dispensary, I believe the example is potentially illustrative of many others who may be caught in a similar situation, due to what I assume are unintended consequences, particularly in smaller Oregon communities.

I urge your support for fairness for fledgling entrepreneurs.

Sandra Larson, Mayor
City of Veneta