

March 4th, 2015

Testimony regarding HB2636

House of Representatives Health Care Committee.

Chair Greenlick, Members of the Committee:

My name is **Sandee Burbank** and I am writing in opposition to **HB 2636**

I have been involved with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) since 1998 and have served on the Advisory Committee on Medical Marijuana since it was formed.

I am a founder and the executive director of Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse (MAMA), a nonprofit organization dedicated for over 30 years to preventing the misuse and abuse of all drugs. MAMA won an award in 1992 from the OLCC for our long-term, ongoing efforts to reduce the misuse and abuse of alcohol. Thanks to Kelly Paige, MAMA is also now a volunteer partner with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide insurance enrollment assistance to those who need the help.

When people pled for assistance with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP), MAMA opened a clinic in Portland in January 2005. MAMA now offers assistance to patients at 3 medical marijuana clinics located in Portland, Bend and The Dalles. We see about 300-350 patients per month between the clinics and we have 3 doctors who work with us. Some of our patients have been coming to us for 10 years.

We specialize in helping patients understand the Program's registration process and rules, get needed medical records, schedule appointments with doctors knowledgeable about cannabis therapeutics and educate patients about harm reduction with medical marijuana. Many patients are referred to us by their doctors and sometimes doctors, who have provided signatures, will suggest enrolling in MAMA's OMMP Orientation.

I am writing in opposition to provisions in HB 2636, specifically the limit on 450 patients per doctor. Many patients, especially those in rural areas, do not have the choice of seeing an MD or DO, but instead are served by Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants or Naturopaths. Their doctors can prescribe medications, but are not allowed to sign for the OMMP.

We have many patients who are veterans. Their records are provided by the VA and veterans are allowed to be registered as OMMP patients, but their VA doctors cannot sign for the card. This group of patients will be dramatically affected by this change and I don't know what they will do to have the access to cannabis that they need to extend or improve their quality of life..

MAMA is not for profit and our clinics exist only because of the needs of the patients. MAMA has an exceptional reputation for the education we provide patients about the various aspects of medical marijuana as medicine (interaction with other drugs, forms of medicines, effects and duration of effects) and the rules of the OMMP. With a 450

limit on how many patients for whom a doctor can sign, our services would no longer be available to those who need it. **I urge you to vote no on HB 2636.**

Sincerely,

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