

From: Tere Knight
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Crawford Adam
Subject: SB 936

Re: SB 936

My name is Tere Knight and I live in Southern Oregon. I am providing written testimony today as I am unable to attend in person.

I would like to talk about several points that I'm concerned about regarding SB 936. This bill is intended to regulate medical marijuana which I am also concerned about. Regulation is needed, certainly, but over-regulation will simply lead to greater black market activity in the long run.

They say the devil is in the details so I'd like to share some I've found to be true. Patients who utilize cannabis can need large quantities of medicine compared to a recreational smoker. Oral ingestion is very different than smoking and the effects are different as it is metabolized through the liver. Many patients use hemp oil orally and other concentrated forms of this medicine, much like pharmaceutical remedies. Because it can take up to 1 ounce of dried cannabis to produce a single gram of hemp oil and cancer patients can take up to a gram a day, you can see how restrictive SB 936 may be for a patient or grower. 30 grams a month, (of hemp oil), for 3 months is a standard recommended program for cancer patients. I myself take 9 ½ grams every month of oral medicine for severe pain. Again you can see how restricting amounts further from what they already are hurts patients with severe conditions. I'd hate to see otherwise law-abiding patients turn to the black market because of these restrictions.

Not all growers can grow the mythical 20 lb plant. First, dried consumable medicine weighs considerably less than a wet, freshly harvested plant. Second, not all plants are 10 ft tall. Mine were between 3ft and 4 ft tall last year. It depends on the plant, the growing conditions and nutrients supplied, so the skill of the grower affects not only the yield but also the quality of the plant.

Third, not all plants contain tons of THC, it depends on the strain which cannabinoids are present in a given plant as well as the nutrients and care supplied. Cannabinoids are some of the active chemicals found in cannabis. THC is one, as is CBD. CBD rich varieties are often sought by patients for pain relief and seizure control. CBD rich plants are smaller in stature due to the inherent properties of the plant strains available. Therefore, it takes more plants to grow as much CBD rich medicine as patients need. (By the way, CBD is non-psychoactive and actually lessens the psychoactive effects of THC.) Whole flower extracts, (read concentrates), contain all the cannabinoids in a given plant and therefore act together to produce medicinal effects. Limiting any one of the 104 known cannabinoids may alter the medicinal effects. This is why I want whole flower, (read the bud of the plant), extracts.

Limiting medicinal gardens by specific areas and to even smaller numbers hurts patients. Many will have no medicine as a result of onerous restrictions. Who do I turn away? My 75 year old mother-in-law with a debilitating muscle condition? Should I stop growing for my best friend who has hyper-mobility syndrome, an extremely painful condition where his joints dislocate? Or do I go without myself? What about my last patient who needs a hip replacement? How do I choose one over another? The limitations proposed by SB 936 would force me to do so.

I'm concerned that the 'seed to sale' model for tracking marijuana will become a standard. Seeds fail. Not all strains are alike and I may grow ounces not pounds. I'm a 3rd year grower and the last 2 years I produced medicine that was less than I needed for the year for my patients.

I grow outdoors and this means I must produce enough for an entire year for each patient. This means that current regulations already restrict amounts to less than my patients could benefit from. I also live in a residential area. Last year I had no complaints from neighbors. Limiting my garden because I'm in a residential area becomes punitive regarding medicine. I'm growing for patients, not recreational use.

Finally, using a force of agents to enforce these restrictions for 12 plants or less is not cost effective. I think larger gardens could do with some policing but it shouldn't be any more onerous than any other industry such as the alcohol industry.

I appreciate your consideration and the ability to express my views.

Tere Knight