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April 1, 2015

Oregon House Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair  
900 Court Street Northeast  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 2025, which would allow persons authorized to engage in medical use of marijuana to continue to use medical marijuana while participating in driving while under influence of intoxicants diversion agreement. I am writing to encourage you to vote No on this bill.

Emergence Addiction and Behavioral Therapies has served as a proven partner to government entities in Lane County and beyond for over 30 years. Specifically, our agency provides the treatment component of Lane County Drug Court and Lane County Veterans Court, two nationally recognized integrated treatment court programs.

Most of our clients have voluntarily entered an integrated treatment court program or into a diversion agreement. These clients use a wide variety of both legal and illegal intoxicating drugs, and we test them all via urinalysis. When a client tests positive for a drug of potential abuse, we immediately contact his or her physician of care and gather information about what are the dosage and administration instructions for the prescription, what symptoms is the medication prescribed to alleviate and is it still appropriate for the client to take this medication after being arrested for DUII or UPCS. We compile this information, present it to our clinical team and work with the physician of care to determine the best course of action.

House Bill 2025 would exempt one drug—marijuana—out of thousands, and it stands to be recognized that physicians making OMMP recommendations are rarely the physician primarily responsible for that applicant's care.

For these reasons, Emergence joins with treatment providers from across Oregon to urge you to vote No on House Bill 2025.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I have included language from drug court evidence-based practices and a resource list of academic journal articles on the subject if you would like more information. Please contact Emergence if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Wig  
Primary Care Coordinator  
Emergence Addiction and Behavioral Therapies



## Evidence-Based Practices

House Bill 2025 is written in direct contrast to evidence-based practices for drug court programs. The following is excerpted from the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards published by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in 2013:

Consequences should be imposed for the nonmedically indicated use of intoxicating and addictive substances, including alcohol, cannabis (marijuana), and prescription medications, regardless of the licit or illicit status of the substance. Ingestion of alcohol and cannabis gives rise to further criminal activity, precipitates relapse to other drugs of abuse, increases the likelihood that participants will fail out of Drug Court, and reduces the efficacy of rewards and sanctions that are used in Drug Courts to improve participants' behaviors. Permitting the continued use of these substances is contrary to evidence-based practices in substance abuse treatment and interferes with the central goals of a Drug Court. The use of any addictive or intoxicating substance should be authorized only if it is determined by competent medical evidence to be medically indicated, if safe and effective alternative treatments are not reasonably available, and if the participant is carefully monitored by a physician with training in addiction psychiatry or addiction medicine. There is a serious risk of morbidity, mortality, or illegal diversion of medications when addiction medications are prescribed by general medical practitioners for addicted.

## Academic Information

Aharonovich, E., et al. (2005). Postdischarge cannabis use and its relationship to cocaine, alcohol and heroin use: A prospective study. *American Journal of Psychiatry* 162(8):1507-1514

Bennett, T., et al. (2008). The statistical association between drug misuse and crime: A meta-analysis. *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 13: 107-118.

Friedman, A.S., et al. (2001). Violent behavior as related to use of marijuana and other drugs. *Journal of Addiction Diseases* 20: 49-72.

Pedersen, W., & Skardhamar, T. (2010). Cannabis and crime: Findings from a longitudinal study. *Addiction* 105 (1): 109-118.

Sechrest, D.K., & Shicor, D. (2001). Determinants of graduation from a day treatment drug court in California: A preliminary study. *Journal of Drug Issues* 31(1): 129-147.

Thompson, L. et al. (2012). Negative reinforcement learning is affected in substance dependence. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 123: 84-90.