

Committee Administrator Crawford,

My name is Carmella Camacho, and I have just returned to my beautiful home state of Oregon from Colorado. I have been actively involved on the patient's side of medical Cannabis for five years. In fact, I voted against recreational in Colorado.

Having witnessed the impact on patients in Colorado when recreational went through I implore you to slow the process down. For instance, the limitations SB 844-6 will prevent patient caretakers from taking on additional patients. Not to mention some patients will lose access to their medicine. In Colorado, we saw many growers switch to the recreational market in order to increase their profits. Please don't unintentionally penalize patients by passing this with haste. While I am against passing it at all, I would ask that you delay implementation of the prohibition of growing more than 96 plants. The Measure 91 system should be implemented before making major changes to the medicinal program. The changes regarding 96 plants can wait until after the 2017 legislative session and 48 plants after the 2019 session.

I am an advocate for Cannabis and regulation of the medical program. It would bring tears to my eyes to see growers turn to the black market because the fees and monthly reporting are too burdensome. I am very proud of the work I have been doing as my children (should they even need Medicinal Cannabis) will never know what it is like to buy Cannabis from a drug dealer. Drug dealers usually sell more than just Cannabis, and that is the only way that it becomes a gateway drug. If you have to buy it where there are cocaine and heroin available eventually you're going to feel the pressure.

Watching the joint committee last night I felt that your questions regarding inspection of the home grows which do not sell any products was met with ambiguous and roundabout answers. I ask that you vote no on section 5(9) of SB 844-6. Regardless of the explanations the fact is it still reads ALL gardens and regulations should not be this broad.

I also ask that vote no on section 5(2)(a)(b) on page 20. It is imperative that patients be allowed to grow their own medicine (and thereby know exactly what has gone into the plant) regardless of how long they have lived in the state. The wording seems to put in place a four-year residency requirement for registered growers regardless if they are the patient themselves. This restriction would be devastating to patients who have been established for years in other states that may relocate to Oregon, such as myself. Please don't limit my ability to grow my own organic medicine. Profit is a huge factor, and many chemical cocktails are being used to improve yield.

The threat of legal punishment will deter many growers from registering and from staying licensed, thereby increasing black market sales. Again I call on you to remove inspection of medical gardens and the OHA's option to notify law enforcement of potentially routine violations. The removal of this language very important to me as I consider the generations to follow.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached by cell at 720-442-1611, by email or post. I hope to meet you in person soon. Have a beautiful rest of you week. Additionally I heard the writer himself state that he is not an industry expert. I am an industry expert and would be happy to answer any questions he may have as well.

Sincerest gratitude,

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