



KATE BROWN
Governor

May 1, 2015

Members of the Joint Committee on Implementing Measure 91:

Since taking office in February, I have been working hard to learn about the many issues surrounding the implementation of Ballot Measure 91. I know that on a parallel track, you have all been doing the same – and some of you have cared about and worked on these issues for much longer. I want to thank you for your tireless efforts.

As I have done my own research, followed your work, and met with the co-chairs of this committee, I have become convinced that a successful recreational market depends in large part on a medical marijuana program that is reasonably regulated.

The changes to the medical program being considered in the current version of Senate Bill 844 have caused me some concern. I fear that a self-reporting system of tracking is not sufficiently reliable to enable state agencies to enforce the regulations being proposed regarding plant and possession limits.

I am aware that there are concerns surrounding the costs of seed-to-sale tracking system for all licensed or permitted marijuana growers and marijuana product manufacturers. However, I believe that those costs can be mitigated through applying some of the revenues from either system to an assistance program for qualifying applicants. Anything short of a strong tracking system may result in too much leakage outside of the legal marijuana market, which will run our state afoul of federal guidelines for legalization and result in a less successful recreational market.

I am aware that it is late in the life of this particular bill to make these changes. If you feel that SB 844 must pass as currently drafted, I will direct my staff to work with you on identifying potential options necessary to ensure we have as safe and accountable of a system as we can while we continue to learn from Colorado and Washington, as well as our own experiences moving forward. No doubt many changes will be made along the way, but requiring seed-to-sale tracking is an excellent starting point.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

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