

Public Testimony Regarding HB 4014 and SB 1511

I have never written a letter of this sort. That being said, please forgive my blunt honesty. It is my understanding that there are regulations being talked about that would basically end the OMMP, as we know it. I'm certain that greed is at the bottom of it. It is certainly not taking into account the medicinal use of cannabis on long-term patients.

My story is simple. I reside in an assisted living with 24-hour care. I reside here because of HIV/AIDS and schizo-affective disorder. Several years ago I developed a slow stomach emptying syndrome...Basically, I threw up violently every time that I attempt to eat. While I was eating. That was when I was introduced to the OMMP program, which quickly helped the constant nausea problem.

Now I can eat without throwing up. Thanks be to God and the OMMP!

In addition, I suffer from schizo-affective disorder. The cannabis works as a powerful anti-psychotic as for me as well. I have never had a suicide attempt (there have been 3 separate occasions in the past) or acute psychosis while using cannabis. It works well with the psych medications that I do take.

So OMMP saved me from great distress, both mentally and physically! I receive my medicine completely free of charge....a gift, if you will. This makes it easier to manage both my physical and mental symptoms. If these regulations are put into place, many OMMP patients will simply be left out in the cold...I...like everyone, where I live in an extended care facility, I receive a small monthly "allowance"...They take all of my SSD, except for the small monthly allowance.

I rely on this medicine so much...It is a miracle for me. Please do not make it difficult for me to get my medicine as a financially poor man who lives in an Assisted Living Facility, paying for my medicine is simply not an option...At the very least, give them a year to comply with any new standards or regulations.

So without being able to access cannabis in the "gifted" way that I have been using., I would have to pay for medicine which would run me several hundred dollars at a dispensary...so that would be the end of the program for me...I'd probably end up in the Psych ward at OHSU after having a suicide attempt. That would be much more costly to the state....going in and out of psych wards....being sick...throwing up every time I eat.

The whole thing seems Anti-Oregonian. Taking the medicine from the poor and exploiting cannabis as a purely recreational drug with high prices and taxes....That is insane and without true compassion. OMMP opened the door-way for the medicinal use of cannabis...That program has worked well for years....Turning it into a "cash cow" now with high taxes and regulations. There seems to be an attempt to end the OMMP program...who are making it truly impossible to keep up and implement policies that make it more difficult for the patient and care-giver. We help "heal" people in Oregon....I feel so fortunate to live here. The insanity around these proposals demonstrate a bleak future for the OMMP program.

Undoubtedly, the state has much to be gained in taxes on recreational cannabis. Do you really have to apply the same regulations on the growing of and distribution of Medicinal Marijuana? Making it extremely difficult to obtain because of cost and unreasonable regulations.

This is what will happen.....sick people will resort to purchasing from individuals in an illegal way.....that's already a huge business, and you know it

. Don't punish OMMP clients by withdrawing their ability to access services in the program, because of MONEY!...most of us "true" patients have insurmountable debts and are living on very little cash.

If you choose to have me speak about this....don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

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