



SB 1511-1

TO: Joint Interim Committee on Marijuana Legalization
FR: Amy Margolis, Oregon Cannabis Association
DA: February 2, 2016
RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1511

Chairs Lininger and Burdick, Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Margolis and I represent the Oregon Cannabis Association. The Oregon Cannabis Association is Oregon's largest professional organization representing the cannabis business community at the local, state and federal level. Our members include more than 100 cultivators, processors, edible makers, dispensaries, and allied businesses including laboratories, security and transportation companies, and providers of legal and financial services. **I am here today to testify in support of SB 1511-1s.**

SB 1511-1 addresses a number of important changes to Oregon's emerging regulatory framework for legalized cannabis, including, expanded access, tax-free sales to patients, OLCC plant limit timeline alignment with OMMP regulations, "bump-up" supply for dispensaries, early start of certain extracts and edibles and reciprocity for medical patients.

While we recognize that there will likely be a number of modifications to the regulatory framework for legalized adult-use cannabis, the Oregon Cannabis Association is pleased to support, in particular, efforts to address: plant limit timeline alignment, expanded early start and expanded access.

Grow Limits and OMMP Timeline Alignment

Finally, the Association hopes the Committee will consider moving back the effective date of medical grow limits. The current implementation dates for the new plant limits were set with a transition to OLCC licensing in mind. As that timetable shifts, it makes sense to ensure that farmers and cultivators are not hamstrung by delays in licensing that are beyond their control.

"Early" Sales of Edibles and Extracts

The Association supports moving up the implementation date for cannabis extracts and edible sales in adult use stores. There is very strong consumer desire for edible products and extracts in Oregon's adult use recreational market, and with the Oregon Health Authority's regulatory infrastructure to protect public health soon to be in place, there is no longer a compelling reason to delay the entry of these products into the market.

The Oregon Cannabis Association is a non-profit professional association representing cultivators, processors, edible makers, dispensaries, and allied businesses including laboratories, security and transportation companies, and providers of legal and financial services to cannabis-related businesses throughout Oregon.



Expanded Access

We are also pleased that the Committee is taking up the issue of expanded access for medical dispensaries and adult use retail stores. Our members feel strongly that we must ensure access to affordable, safe and high quality medicinal cannabis for patients who are registered with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program.

We do not believe it is necessary or desirable to force business owners to choose between preserving access and making what is really the only viable business decision for many current dispensary owners, which is to pursue a recreational license. We point to the current landscape, in which, thanks to this Committee's work last year, dispensaries are successfully serving both medical and adult-use customers. As an experiment, expanded access is working. Let's work together to adjust the regulatory model to fit the reality of what best serves patients, recreational customers, and our communities.

The Oregon Cannabis Association is thrilled that Oregon's cannabis business community is becoming a strong, emerging opportunity that will help improve Oregon's economy, provide living wage jobs and put Oregon on the map as a premier destination for the best cannabis in the country. It has been our pleasure to participate as an active partner with the Legislature and the Executive Branch, as well as our local governments, to help craft the rules that will propel us forward.