

Oregon Legislators
Committee on Marijuana

February 16, 2016

transcript of Jefferson's draft,^[5] which reads:

“We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness; ...”

As the people representatives, you took an oath.....you not only have a moral obligation but also a legal obligation to uphold measure 91. **850,000** people in the state made their desire known to you, their employees. They said it not once but three times that the medical program would remain the same. Your moral responsibility is to do the will and intent of the voters – the people. We now understand that you can legally make the changes you are proposing BUT that, by no means, gives you the moral authority to make changes that will destroy and do harm to those among us that are the weakest. Over **100,000** patients have had no voice in the rule process until Right to Grow gave them a voice. I can speak with total confidence for the majority of the **100,000** plus patients, **50,000** plus growers do not agree with the gutting of the OMMP. For 19 years the OMMP has worked with very few problems helping the most sick in this state and others who move to Oregon for the purpose of healing via the medical marijuana program. For those of you who want to take this from us, says a lot about who you are and where your interest lie.

We the people have fought long and hard, even some going to prison, to bring this industry out of the darkness into the light. With a few bills and those organizations that care more about **money \$\$\$\$** and nothing about the patients will destroy thousands of lives. We at Right to Grow represent the patient **FIRST** and others last. As a group, we have solutions to many of the problems, given the chance to work with you for more solutions. Any Bill changing the will and intent of the people must go before the people for a vote. That is your moral obligation.

There has never been a measure voted in by the people, that I am aware of, that allowed the cities and counties to “opt out” of. There have been measures voted in that affect me and many others I know but cities and counties were forced to accept it because it was the will of the majority. So, why Measure 91?? Why has not every measure been given the same option????

Every patient and grower that I have talked to are all saying the same thing...“we will not comply”. Our direction, if solutions cannot be found, is to file not only a discrimination suite but also a class action suite. The members of Right to Grow along with the patients, growers, dispensaries, processors and wholesalers will be joining the suites and moving forward.

We only ask and implore that you follow the intent of Measure 91 and fulfill your moral responsibility to those who employ you, the people. Remember, it is the people you serve NOT special interest or big money.

The people in this industry, growers & producers, have many, many years of experience in this industry. We as a group are very willing to consult with you to find the solutions to the vast array of challenges perceived in this market.

Concerns and suggestions:

The Cole Memorandum address’ a number of areas that the Federal government wants under control. We can take a look at each one individually to find an appropriate solution.

One such area is the so called “Black market”. By enacting so many costly regulations thereby adding a much greater expense to growers and producers end product, the cost of goods is greatly increased to the consumer. This in itself will cause the consumer to again seek lower cost by going to the Black market. Keeping regulation to a reasonable expense to growers and producers will allow the retail cost to consumers to be affordable and competitive.

The tax rate is another area that could be reduced to keep competitive pricing as well.

Opening up avenues for the people working in this industry to work with Law Enforcement and help “weed out” the bad apples.

Compile a Bill of Rights for patients and growers.

States that have only allowed “indoor” grow sites have not decreased the flow to the Black market.

Allowing the OLCC to open their own dispensaries will only cause great harm to the industry and is a huge conflict of interest.

This is just to name a few. By working together with the people who have vast experience in this particular field will allow many more areas of concern to be mutually solved with much less conflict.

You have at your disposal a **huge** pool of knowledge in this industry, you only need to tap in to it. Let's work together instead of opposing each other for the mutual benefit of the patients, growers, producers, citizens and municipalities.

Steve Hunt
Public Relations Director
RIGHT TO GROW
541-941-37961