



2611 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Suite 224  
Portland OR 970201  
[www.phylosbioscience.com](http://www.phylosbioscience.com)

February 17, 2016

Members of the Committee on Marijuana Legalization,

This letter is a statement of strong support for Senate Bill 1598. I have been involved in the legalization process in Oregon, both as a member of the OHA and OLCC rules advisory committees and as Chair of the Oregon State Cannabis Research Task Force. I am also the Chief Scientific Officer of the cannabis genetics company Phylos Bioscience, and I write this primarily from the point of view of a participant in the Oregon state Cannabis industry. It is my belief that SB 1598 will provide for a series of key changes that will support the sustainable long-term growth of the cannabis industry in Oregon and protect the state as a whole.

This bill makes several critical changes that will support the ability of small existing Oregon growers to compete in this new industry. These changes will have the effect of strengthening the family farm economy in Southern Oregon, and they are an absolutely essential component of the State's efforts to comply with the Cole Memorandum.

The -5 and -12 amendments to SB 1598 are necessary because of the ways that they will support cannabis research in Oregon. Together, these amendments will protect the health of Oregonians, through public health research that will inform our cannabis testing guidelines, and they will ensure that Oregon remains a leader in this growing new scientific field.

I also wish to express my support for two concepts that may be added. The first is the ability to sell low-THC topical products in typical store settings. This idea is more powerful than it looks, and less risky. These products contain THC in forms that will not be metabolically active if accidentally ingested, or at low enough concentrations that they pose no health risks. Promoting their wider availability will make the surprising number of scientifically-supported medical benefits of dermatological applications of cannabis available to a much larger range of Oregonians. It will also serve as an important force to normalize this growing industry that the state of Oregon is now committed to.

The other concept I support is the idea of a non-profit dispensary license. Making such a license easily accessible and bringing the creation of such organizations within reach will serve an absolutely critical purpose. Many of the points of contention in the legislative process around cannabis legalization have hinged on the ways that the new industry may negatively impact existing medical marijuana patients. These concerns are not unfounded, and it will not serve Oregon well to have a cannabis industry that is primarily "recreational". It is key that we invest in medical research, medical applications, and in the medical patients themselves. If we are engaged in this entire process because we believe that cannabis can serve as meaningful medicine for some people, then we are obligated to consider how those people, especially those who are low income, will have access to this medicine. Non-profit dispensaries will, for now, serve the role that OHP cannot serve. If we build this industry only to find that poor patients no longer have the access that they once did, we will have built it on an extremely unstable foundation.

I want to thank Rob Bovett and Mark Mayer for all their work on this bill to include research. I'd also like to once again thank you, the Members of the Committee, for your hard work and thoughtful deliberations. It has been an extraordinarily bipartisan, courteous, and intelligent process because of your work. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mowgli Holmes