

Co Chair Burdick, Co Chair Laninger and the Joint Committee,

I respectfully would like my testimony in the record. My name is Cynthia M. George. I am a Lincoln County resident of 23 years raised in SW Portland in Garden Home. I need to voice my concerns on SB 1598.

It seems to me that the body and intent of this bill is to redefine cannabis as a farm use and not an agricultural crop. As it was explained at a Jackson County Commissioners meeting that AOC advised them of the potential change in this law which would make growing medical cannabis illegal on RR zoned lands.

These are the small medical growers who have been providing medicine for over 80,000 patients in Oregon. This needs to be made clear to the people of Oregon if that is what is intended. I have watched AOC and LOC carve out the rights of the majority of voters in Oregon while being paid with City and County funds to deny our vote.

Second I would like to voice my strong concern on the Non Profit Dispensary.

-10 Amendment, This could potentially put patients at risk for discrimination from Medical providers and the Oregon Health Plan. Using low income patients for research is nothing to be passed in this short session without major discussion. There is no protection of patients rights nor anti discrimination language in this bill. Too many patient have medications withheld even in emergency rooms due to an OMMP status in the record. How will the illness to be researched be protected by the law. This government does not have the best track record with low income health care as it is.

It also seems to be a potential way to send research funds to OLCC by purchasing their excess products at a reduced fee, to then be sent to a Non Profit . From there it is as I understand the plan, driven to rural communities and provided at low or no cost to low income patients, who could be used as research. This could go terribly wrong. In France some researcher tried to synthesize the cannabinoid CBD. It went terribly wrong. There was no cannabis in this chemical poison. One man was left brain dead. We need to respect this medicine and learn all we can without trying to play god with this medicine. It is a plant. I do believe OLCC should not keep track nor have access to patient information. It is one thing to show the ID but it is another for OLCC to have patient names and addresses. We treat with respect the confidentiality of the sick.

I am in support of medical cannabis staying separate from OLCC. We need to keep these issues separate. I am in support of Co location of two separate facilities side by side but not mixed.

Respectfully Cynthia M. George

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