

Date: January 27, 2015

To: OHA- Public Health Division- [publichealth.rules@state.or.us](mailto:publichealth.rules@state.or.us)

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To Whom It May Concern:

With the passage of Measure 91, 850,000 Oregonians voted to "**retain current medical laws**", as certified on the ballot. The OHA has not honored the text of the ballot, and has instead gone against the will of the voters, and generated over 100 pages of permanent rules to the medical marijuana program.

Because OHA did not send any written notice of these proposed permanent rules to any of the OMMP growers, caregivers, or patients- growers will not be able to comply with these rules by the March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 deadline. This will leave nearly 80,000 patients without safe access to their medical marijuana.

It is the OHA's responsibility to "**improve the lifelong health of Oregonians, increase the quality, reliability, and quality of care, and to lower or contain the costs of care so it's affordable to everyone**". These proposed rules will take away patients' rights for safe, affordable, quality, lifelong access to medical marijuana.

As a voter, citizen and member of the OMMP, I expect the OHA uphold your mission statement and to comply with the will of the majority of Oregon voters, and "**retain current medical laws**".

Sincerely,

**Stop The Oregon Health Authority  
From Destroying the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program!**

<b>Petition summary and background</b>	<p>OMMP patients are at risk of losing their growers due to excessive regulations imposed by the Oregon Health Authority.</p> <p>With the passage of Measure 91, 850,000 Oregonians voted to “<b>retain current medical laws</b>”, as certified on the ballot. The OHA has not honored the text of the ballot, and has instead gone against the will of the voters, and generated over 100 pages of permanent rules to the medical marijuana program.</p> <p>Because OHA did not send any written notice of these proposed permanent rules to any of the OMMP growers, caregivers, or patients- growers will not be able to comply with these rules by the March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 deadline. This will leave nearly 80,000 patients without safe access to their medical marijuana.</p> <p>It is the OHA’s responsibility to “<b>improve the lifelong health of Oregonians, increase the quality, reliability, and quality of care, and to lower or contain the costs of care so it’s affordable to everyone</b>”. These proposed rules will take away patients’ rights for safe, affordable, quality, lifelong access to medical marijuana.</p>
<b>Action petitioned for</b>	<p>We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to OHA comply with the will of the majority of Oregon voters, and “<b>retain current medical laws</b>”.</p>

To the OHA committee:

Good day to you all. I am Andrea Orcutt, a proud resident of Oregon for the last two years. I moved here from Texas, where I and all other Texans were denied access to the benefits of medical cannabis. I have close family members there who could benefit greatly from the use of cannabis, yet they are denied that opportunity. I have always considered Oregon to be a progressive state, and I hope that your upcoming policy decisions do not turn that around.

First of all, Measure 91 stated that the legalization of cannabis for recreational use would not in any way interfere with the medical program. This measure was passed by the majority of voters in Oregon, and so it is unequivocally the will of the people. The majority of voters in Oregon know that the medical cannabis program has worked well and does not need fixing.

Beyond that, I would like to say that, as an OMMP patient, I do not enjoy the freedoms that others take for granted. In an already hot housing market, my use of medical cannabis limits the places where I am allowed to rent. Not to mention it limits my abilities to obtain gainful employment. As a patient, I face the prejudices of landlords, property managers, and employers. This is not something that a person who takes Oxycontin has to deal with quite as much, at least on the housing end. My medicine is not addictive or harmful as many pharmaceuticals are, and it doesn't cause the societal fallout that occurs with addiction. Yet, my choice to safely medicate with cannabis causes these obstacles, and I have to accept them.

Now, the OHA is considering enacting policies that would make it more difficult and costly to obtain my medicine by severely limiting the ability of my grower, as well as all small farmers, to produce my medicine. This I cannot accept. My grower has not charged me at all for my medicine, which is of a very good quality. As an Oregonian, albeit a new one, I do not want out of state money involved in the growing of our medicine, or even recreational cannabis. The people of this fine state have done a wonderful job of producing the finest quality cannabis flower and products, and that is often done on a smaller scale. I support residency requirements for all new growers and cannabis entrepreneurs. Let Oregon money stay in Oregon. It is not only better for patients, it is better for Oregon's economy as a whole. Also, from what I have seen, Oregonians love to buy locally, so this goes along with the proud Oregon culture.

I do not and cannot support draconian regulations that further limit medical growers, such as slashing plant limits for them. This does nothing but hurt patients by limiting their access to medicine, drives costs up, and forces growers to make difficult choices. This will drive people back to the black market, and that is money which does not stay in the Oregon economy. It is a bad idea all the way around.

As a patient and a proud Oregonian, I implore you to leave the medical system as is, intact.

Sincerely,  
Andrea K. Orcutt  
White City

Feb 2016 letter in Testimony to the Oregon Legislature.

I am an SSD Oregon Medical Marijuana Patient who has had to contact the Governor's Advocacy Office of the Ombudsman on more than one occasion, due to blatant lack of information gathering and sharing from or to the patients in the Oregon Medical Marijuana program to the OMMP/OHA and the other sub committees.

The June 2016 ACMM minutes, show there is a genuine lack of compassion or ability of the ACMM representative members to be able to provide information to the committee or to give input into the fee scheduling process of this program. This committee is supposed to be the voice of the patients and their mission reads as follows: *The mission of the Committee is to advise the Director of the Oregon Health Authority on the administrative aspects of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP), review current and proposed administrative rules, and provide annual input on the program's fee structure. Upon review of the most recent, but outdated minutes that are available from the committee (but only on their web site), one will find that the representatives on the ACMM committee state--- over and over again----- that they are not being allowed to provide input, nor do they know when they will be allowed to provide input. As per the last record in June 2015. I see nothing showing any fee scheduling commentary or additions to be allowed to be given, nor is time currently been set aside to discuss the fee scheduling over pricing to the patients and the Growers. I have repeatedly commented as to the Discrimination against my protected class of patients whom do not receive a discount from any agency or program. Our numbers per the recorded docs show ½ of the Program patients receive no discount. The patient's fees (after the price gouging at the Medical Marijuana Dr. s offices and available Clinics), usually cost a patient upwards of \$400.00-to \$500.00, including our OMMP costs to renew.* Patients cannot afford to be the back bone and fee piggy for all the other programs and greedy groups and retailers that now are in the Marijuana distribution and study businesses. OLCC and OAG and other groups etc.

Upon review of the June 2015 Quarterly minutes Mr. Wagner passed out the financials (*however they are not included in the minutes*). So now patients don't have access to the financial numbers to our program. ACMM Rep, Mr. Mackanness on page 6, bullet 2 -asked if the OHA administration was aware of any other programs that fund other programs through recipient fees and if they personally thought it was fair. No response was noted.

Why is this being allowed to happen on the backs of the patients? Why is OLCC going to be allowed to sell Medical Marijuana? This feels like a backhanded attempt to allow recreational marijuana to over-run the medical marijuana program and its patient community. They need to pay their own way, not gouge the patients for founding program fees and study's. Government over reach is becoming rampant in this program---- greed is everywhere. Ms. Saxton states she is more than willing to assist OLCC and OAG to keep cost low, but is not ready to schedule fee discussions with the ACMM to discuss patient fee reductions as per the June 2016 minutes, there appears to be no fee discussion meetings scheduled. That leaves we patients, growers, pondering when we will be heard. Meanwhile patients get to fund the other programs, all while legislature kills off the Patients and our Medical Program as they bust hump to make a dollar for the state and themselves.

I personally would like to know who finds this legal? Civil Liberties and Human Rights are available to our members so what is going on here? Many / most of us are a protected class. Many are women in this program being pushed out by greed for the dollar and disregard for the patients. Patient cards are backing up for renewal and patients cannot access the medication so patients are dying. Why is the Eastern side of Oregon been allowed by legislature to not follow the voted in laws? They are allowed to punish patients and deny medications all while receiving general funds from the program that they hate. This is not acceptable, put it to the voters as the original law was written this way. Stop legislative over reach of the state of Oregon voters. Why are they going against the law of the voters of Oregon and receiving any General Funding? No – no – no, it was not to be this way per the original law. This goes directly against the patients and the will of the Oregon voters. This again is a sign of the Legislative over reach in this program, and a direct slap in the face of the Oregon voters and the Medical Marijuana Patients.

On page 7 of the June 2016 ACMM Minutes, Ms. Burbank stated that the OMMP has not allowed the ACMM to contact legislature as a body regarding medical marijuana. Mr. Delgado stated that the ACMM would like OMMP fees to be as low as possible and he feels as if the ACMM has been cut out of the fee structure discussion by the OMMP.



When asked by Ms. Saxton what percentage of OMMP cardholders qualified for reduced fees, Mr. Delgatto stated it was approximately ½. On page 8 of the ACMM minutes Ms. Saxton then stated that OHA would be looking at a fee process so that they are clear and robust across the agency's. she stated that the OHA would be setting up fee structured protocols and they intend to be transparent with interested parties. **However**, upon review of their minutes **there is no current schedule date, for any fee structure conversation, nor notation that any fee schedules have been set. However, Legislature OMMP etc. have again raised the Registration fees, prior to any legislative changes particularly those about to take place in March 1 of 2016. We the patients had no input in to these legislative overreaching items.**

**Ms. Burdic again points out that in the past the ACMM was deliberately kept out of the fee discussion with legislation.** Ms. Bennett stated that fees for patients who receive SSD should be reduced. On Page 9 of the ACMM minutes. Mr. Mackaness stated **that he believes that it is discriminatory that patients with OMMP cards cannot be employed at, or own child care centers, but people who use marijuana recreationally do not face the same restrictions.**

**This in my mind is a direct Civil Liberties issue and discrimination against a protected class. As a retired Early Childhood Educator I am disgusted at the group think that is going on around the stability of patients and our rights to work in our chosen fields of study without prejudice and hate. Not to mention the removal of our right to bear arms which is guaranteed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of this country. We the patients are also concerned about our HIPPA RIGHTS and LAWS that are being trampled by the OHA and Oregon Legislators and the medical and mental health communities are targeting patients questioning our Mental Health as a collective. All while other addictive drugs are allowed to be taken by employees but its ok as they are prescribed by the AMA Doctor Community. Soon The Ways and Means committee will step in and really mess things up. This is discrimination at its best. This is our program and it is clear they want the patients gone and the medical marijuana program with us.**

It truly feels like the OLCC, the OMMP, and legislature are trying to merge the Recreational Marijuana rules and the Medical Marijuana Program laws at the expense of the patient, whom the law was written for in the first place. We the patients do not want this to happen. Restore the medical marijuana program as written into law. It must not be taken over by the recreational policies and politics based on greed.

On page 9 the minutes show that Mr. Taylor, stated that the OHA, must advocate for medical marijuana patients in order for the program to run effectively.

I agree they need to remember who the Patients are and why we are here. We need you to hear all our voices, not just a few select (well-funded) opinions from lobbyists and special interest groups or committees, while the poor patient is not allowed representation. We need to be supported not discounted. We need safe and quick access to our medication across our State and we need the Legislature to stop this war on patients and growers here in Oregon that is directly focusing on the money trail and the greed.

After reading all the history and minutes' it is clear that a thorough investigation should be conducted as it appears representatives have benefited from their connection to the OMMP and the ACMM via new businesses being formed to study or test cbds and thc's . This needs looked into and addressed and charges brought as need. Many patients feel some of our program directors and reps are not doing their jobs out of personal gain. I urge you to take the time to review all the program date and records and make the discovery for yourself it is there in black and white. We need our laws restored in their entirety to our Medical Marijuana Program.

Respectfully,

Dannis L. Hurliman

January  
29, 2016

to whom it may concern,

Please,

with compassion in your hearts,  
and with grace and plenty of  
breathing room,

extend this new deadline  
until January 2017.

This gives everyone,  
especially patients time to  
figure out how to survive.

People have full-time jobs, families,  
bills to pay and then on top, in ~~30~~

29 days of February must purchase  
security, fences, paperwork, etc! to  
get this new process in place?!

Think about it,

Sincerely Marcella Grace