

March 7, 2017

To: Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation

From: Compassionate Oregon

The issue of confidentiality for patient information is of serious concern to our Board. It is of special concern when the need for verification necessitates the sharing of this information between agencies and exposes this information to possible accidental or intentional disclosure.

The goal here it seems, is to minimize this risk and to ensure no personal patient information is disclosed in this process and that sales records cannot be linked a specific consumer or patient.

The simple answer is to just stop recording this information and simply check ID's following typical protocol. It should be no different than any other age verification process and should be no more complicated than making purchases of alcohol, tobacco or getting into the beer garden.

We recognize the concern raised by OLCC regarding verification of OMMP cards for purchases of higher potency products and exemption from paying the state tax on purchases but this too is easily solved.

Patients are required to show their OMMP card to receive these benefits but they are also required to provide a picture ID with their card. Each card also includes an expiration date. If the card is expired a patient may also presents store personnel with a valid OHA receipt indicating a patient is in the renewal period. If these criteria cannot be met, a patient is simply denied those privileges for that visit.

OLCC already provides training on verification of ID in their Marijuana Workers Permit program and could easily incorporate OMMP card verification into this training.

Finally, as an added safeguard against accidental disclosure, the OHA should provide retail operators and OHA dispensaries with a regularly updated and easily cross-checked list of OMMP cards that have been suspended should there be any need for further verification.

We support Senate Bill 863 and ask the committee to consider the above recommendations as well and minimize recording of any personal information and reduce the amount of information that would need to be destroyed under this bill.

We support this bill.

Submitted by:

Anthony Taylor, President  
Compassionate Oregon