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Portland, Oregon

TESTIMONY HB 2198, SB 1057, & Related Bills on Medical Cannabis

It is obvious the Oregon Legislators have ignored the advice/perspectives of those patients (and those assisting patients who do not have "commerce interests") directly affected by the Oregon Legislators' misguided (by well paid business lobbyists who were funded by the bounty of those who were THE worst offenders of OMMA "abuses") legislation regarding the OMMA.

The Oregon Legislators continue to gut the OMMA, despite it's polled support by more than 80% of voting Oregonians. We have REPEATEDLY stated the MEDICAL program simply cannot effectively be governed by the OLCC.

How much more clear can we be?

But the Oregon Legislators simply do not care. They continue to drive more and more "nails in the OMMP coffin"; already affecting access to a medicine their doctor recommends by tens of thousands of OMMA patients.

At a time when people are dying, there is a declared emergency regarding opiate usage, and CBD utilization presents as a viable, proven, option for humanely addressing pain issues...

When CBD cannabis is proving to have tremendous potential in lessening symptoms of Alzheimer's, and as a well documented option for seizure control. CBD has no psychoactive properties, incidentally.

In addition the Oregon Legislature now is advocating for the OLCC to have gestapo like powers regarding enforcement of this now poorly written law, ripe with potential for abuse and forfeiture bounties...much like the marijuana Task Force in the 1980s in Portland, when those LEOs made more money than ANYONE in the City of Portland Government, and their prime targets were medical marijuana patients (before the OMMA).

Now, recently and with this proposed misguided legislation, we are being taken back to pre OMMA, in a Greed Rush orchestrated by ill informed legislators who refuse to consider patient interests in the name of "legalization" salivating over potential state income from this...at the expense of patient access. I had hoped that legalization of cannabis would mean more patient access, and, maybe a program to help low income patient access a medicine their doctor recommends, but, instead, low income patient access has been dramatically reduced by recent legislation, and this bill would reduce it even further.

Let me be clear, "THE OLCC IS NOT (and never will be) EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH MEDICAL".

Our co-op's work with patients in residential care facilities and people on end-of-life (hospice/palliative) care has been impacted by recent legislation so we are now no longer accepting new patients; this is a direct result of Oregon Legislators' dramatic changes to the OMMA.

Oregon Legislators are directly responsible for the 22 people in residential care or on end-of-life care who have approached us through doctor referrals being told, "As a direct result of recent changes to the OMMA, we are no longer taking on new patients".***

Should this law pass, we will be phasing out our pro bono work more quickly.

Our House of Portland (an intensive nursing facility for those impacted with AIDS), 5 other residential care facilities, quadriplegics, people with advanced MS, ALS, traumatic brain injuries, Memory Care patients (i.e., Alzheimer's), terminal patients, etc. have all very significantly benefited from our OMMA compliant assistance.

Instead of making our assistance easier, Oregon Legislators, with their greed inspired, misguided legislation, continue to make it MUCH more difficult, and leaning toward no longer possible.

Patient (and people assisting them) interests continue to be ignored by misguided Oregon Legislators' legislation.

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