

Friday, April 14, 2017

To the Joint Committee on cannabis regulations,

My name is Cynthia George. I, along with my son, own and operate Going Green West Coast Compassion Center. We are located in the unincorporated area of Lincoln County. It has been a long three years operating in this adverse climate, created by many of the laws enacted by this commission.

I thought it was time for our story to be told, but after watching last week's hearing, it became clear that firstly, you seem not to concern yourselves with the actual damage you've caused with your decisions. Secondly, few of you seem to truly understand the medicine you are in charge of regulating. It seems to be considered a cash cow, and patients be damned if you lose your tax revenue. So I will focus on my concerns with SB1057.

Section 6- I strongly disagree with OLCC having any authority or access to Medical grows, patient records, or OHA licensed dispensaries. We have been required to protect the confidentiality of medical patients over the last three years. We have already seen the discrimination a medical patient can be subjected to in their community, from local hospitals and Pain Clinics, based solely on their OMMP status. This information should be retained by the OHA and if need be a number can be assigned for data purposes only. This would be similar to the member number we use at our dispensary, to enter into a POS with no personal information, but can be cross referenced by the OHA for clarification. We have signed membership contracts with over 2700 OMMP patients guaranteeing confidentiality. That was the law when we opened in 2014. It is still our practice today.

Section 18- I feel that only if a medical dispensary, producer, processor, or patient wants to enter into the OLCC system by using the OLLC assets, then and only then, would OLCC gain access of the Metrics tracking connecting to the OLCC system. Otherwise OHA could implement a separate medical tracking system. I feel strongly that OLCC is playing a dangerous game with the medical patient's rights. As a state regulator, who is also under federal guidelines, it has become very clear in last weeks testimony, that OLCC feels a reason to be concerned. Adding Mr Bovett's threat to once again push the federal button, if you enforce the right to farm protections. This has become some game being played with the lives of tens of thousands of sick, and injured citizens of Oregon.

Section 27- This is where I take a very strong personal issue. I am in litigation on time, Place, and manner abuse by Lincoln County. For three years I have been targeted, while no other dispensary has suffered the same harassment in this County. I have followed the rules as was written from 2-10-14, when we met with Lincoln county planners Ono Husing and Joshua Shaklee. We were told the Olalla Rd store, which sat empty for years, would be a perfect location for a Medical dispensary. It was zoned Tourist Commercial with outright use as a store, clinic, club, bar, and many other outright uses. It is nowhere near a school. We signed a contract with the landlord and began preparations. The one thing no one mentioned was a County commissioner lived right next door, separated by a mountain. There was already a conflict between the landlord and the commissioner Douglas Hunt. We were outright and honest with the planning department from day one until today. We were also the first people to step forward, and believe in the rights of us as patients, and as a medical facility in our community. It was out of respect we searched out this location.

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No children have access to a sidewalk or stores within this area.

From day one we became the target for Lincoln county commissioners. Then on 3-19-14, governor Kitzhaber signed 1531, drafted by Mr Rob Bovett. This began the destruction of the patients, growers, and dispensaries rights all across Oregon. City by city, county by county, neighbors became divided in many areas that cannabis patients, and their growers had lived in harmony for 17-18 years.

For us, the harassment began with the passing of 1531, yet we have continued in business, and even sold limited recreation for a year, with outstanding sales and reputation. But it has come with a huge cost. We were served a nuisance lawsuit the day edibles in recreation sales were allowed in the medical dispensaries last year. We have kept our medical patients separated by different dispensing rooms, to continue a high level of privacy for our patients. They are our community, our elders, our veterans, and the vulnerable. Then in Jan 2017 it ended and we were glad to have been of service but what followed has been a sad time.

As a medical dispensary, I have been left feeling as though you as the legislature, are forgetting why we were here to begin with. For three years we learned and grew together, as an industry providing medicine. Each processor came in and profited off the patients. But when the OLCC became the regulator of the cannabis system, we could no longer provide many medications to our patients. Medical producers and processors provided over \$200,000,000 worth of product last year, as you collected \$60,000,000 in taxes. I am not even allowed to buy a cartridge or edible from the people who provided me with MEDICINE for three years, for the thousands of medical patients we served.

You say we are held to a higher testing standard because of the health risk to patients, yet OLCC dispenses medicine to those sick patients, while not separating the testing of products. I truly believe in the testing of all products 100%.

This plant is just a reflection of our environment, and we are now learning how toxic our food supply, water supply, and the air we breathe, truly has become. As legislature you should demand our food supply be as clean as the cannabis. We know that has not been a concern.

Section 27- Now you want to hand the authority back to a city or county, who will abuse their zoning laws, and potentially withhold, or in our case, cancel a legal state license. Even after over three years of business without due process of law? I and my family have given everything back to our community, by building a beautiful compassionate facility, and we deserve our due process of law. So out of respect for the administrative rules process, I respectfully ask that you do not undermine due process. Our facility has a counter suit for what we feel is an illegal taking of vested interest. We deserve our day in the court. I did not wish to be drug into this fight, but I am willing to stand up for our right's. I am a community member who has worked in the schools, sat on the Indian education parent committee for years, and am married to a native veteran who served this country for 8 years. My daughters were born in this town and on 11-11-16 the heart of our future of Going Green West Coast Compassion Center was killed in a tragic auto accident. This is why I still stand. She believed in the medicine and helped

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countless patient's with her love and compassion. Most people would crumble under the loss, but she believed in me as her mother, and who we are as a Medical dispensary, but more importantly, what we can do to make our community a better place.

Dash Amendment 11- As for the legislative hearing, I can only say I agree with the right to farm laws. I am an Oregonian, a mother, and Grandmother. I am tired of the nonsense shown by this legislative government alongside the STAKE HOLDERS. The hypocrisy and judgment needs to stop. I am tired of the portrait you paint of the medical cannabis patient, and the use of this plant medicine. If you have not seen it change a life, you are ignorant of the medicine you now want to control.

This is not a game that should be played at the expense of patients, or the citizens you serve.

No man should have the right to tell another what he can grow from seed, unless it is endangered, invasive, or on state or federal lands. That was the Oregon Law prior to 1531, and no one seemed to realize with the insertion of "NOTWITHSTANDING", you could violate every Oregonians right to farm and garden on their own property.

ORS 633.738,

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Local government" has the meaning given that term in ORS [174.116](#) ("[Local government](#)" and "[local service district](#)" defined).

(b) "Nursery seed" means any propagant of nursery stock as defined in ORS [571.005](#) ([Definitions for ORS 571.005 to 571.230](#)).

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a local government may not enact or enforce a local law or measure, including but not limited to an ordinance, regulation, control area or quarantine, to inhibit or prevent the production or use of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed or vegetable seed or products of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed or vegetable seed. The prohibition imposed by this subsection includes, but is not limited to, any local laws or measures for regulating the display, distribution, growing, harvesting, labeling, marketing, mixing, notification of use, planting, possession, processing, registration, storage, transportation or use of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed or vegetable seed or products of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed or vegetable seed.

(3) Subsection (2) of this section does not prohibit a local government from enacting or enforcing a local law or measure to inhibit or prevent the production or use of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed or vegetable seed or products of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed or vegetable seed on property owned by the local government. [2013 s.s. c.4 §3]

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We need to protect our right to live in peace, without eroding our constitutional rights, in the process of living with a new green economy.

Respectfully,

Cynthia M. George

OMMP patient and Medical dispensary owner.

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