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**From:** Stephen McLennon <drumdoc11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** JMR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Proposed amendments to House Bill 2198

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of proposed amendments to House Bill 2198. By way of introduction, I have been a physician for over 30 years, and have been licensed in Oregon since 1991. I've been a board-certified family physician since 1989, and prior to coming to Oregon, I was an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. I have worked in primary care, occupational medicine, and for 15 years was the medical director, and instructor for a mindfulness-based stress reduction program for people with chronic illness, and chronic pain. Currently, I am a hospice medical director for Heart of Hospice in Hood River, Oregon. I also provide long-term care for veterans that reside at the Oregon Veterans Home in the Dalles, Oregon, and I serve as medical director for Columbia Basin Care, a skilled nursing facility in the Dalles, Oregon. I am also medical director, and supervising physician for the Deschutes Rim Health Clinic in rural Maupin, OR.

I started participating in the OMMP, and recommending medicinal cannabis to patients in 2008, 10 years after the law went into effect. Prior to that, I was fairly ignorant as to the medical utility of cannabis, and was somewhat skeptical about the program. After some persistent encouragement from a colleague, I looked into it more, and started educating myself. My experience over the last 9+ years has unequivocally shown me that cannabis can be a safe and effective medication for a variety of patients and conditions. For many patients, it has literally been transformative for them to have safe access to quality cannabis medicine. And many of them have suffered under the burden of marginally effective, ineffective, and even harmful treatments, and they deserve to continue to be able to use this medicine. There are also, doubtless, numerous people who have yet to discover the benefits of medicinal cannabis. Many of them may be stymied by the lingering stigma associated with its use. They deserve the dignity and respect of a system that works, that supports their rights as patients, and will be there into the future.

I feel strongly that the OMMP needs to be updated to better reflect the reality of cannabis medicine. I also believe that we need to support more and better public and professional education. Cannabis has been used as medicine by humanity for thousands of years, and currently tens of thousands of Oregonians rely on it. It is time that we move forward and take steps to ensure that the program reflects the reality that cannabis is a safe and effective medication for many of our fellow citizens, and that it will be available to them, and future generations.

Respectfully,

Stephen A McLennon M.D.