

April 25, 2017

RE: SB 1057-23

Dear Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation,

Thank you for receiving my testimony. My name is Sarah Bennett and I have been involved with the OMMP for almost a decade as a patient, a caregiver and a grower. Additionally, I was a dispensary owner licensed and regulated by OHA which has now converted to an OLCC licensed retailer. I am a former medical grower converted to an OLCC producer. Lastly I note that I am the Chair of the Advisory Committee for Medical Marijuana (ACMM) to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) however I am not submitting this testimony in that capacity.

I write to oppose SB 1057-23. The proposed implementation of OMMP tracking by July 2018 is far too aggressive. This bill also suggests potential burdensome fees for said tracking that would be placed on an already financially burdened OMMP patient. With first-hand experience on transitioning from OMMP to OLCC METRC the challenges associated with converting an entire industry has proven to be tedious, costly and requiring an extensive learning curve. A learning curve that may not be appropriate for patients who are not business owners. It is not a practical nor an attainable goal to implement this requirement by July 2018. For this reason alone I strongly oppose this bill.

I do support the formation of a Cannabis Commission as proposed by HB 2198-7 and would ask this committee this bill. I support the Cannabis Commission's authority to establish the rules and timeline for the implementation of a robust medical marijuana tracking system.

Further, I believe now is the most appropriate time to move the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) from OHA. Specifically it makes more sense that the Oregon Department of Agriculture have oversight of medical marijuana production rather than the Oregon Health Authority.

Thank you very much for your time,

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