

Greetings Madame Co-Chairs and other Esteemed Committee Members,

I, Braxton Creel, am a resident of Clackamas County, a voter, an Oregon medical cannabis patient, an OMMP grower, and an advocate for the rights of medical cannabis patients in Oregon, please enter this into public record as my testimony on the matter.

I want to start off by thanking each of you for your hard work in attempting to regulate such a difficult industry. I write to you today to point out that while I support some of the amendments to the bills floating around and moving towards further regulating the OMMP, there are some that will be devastating for OMMP patients, caregivers, and growers alike. I would like to mention a couple in particular just to make sure that everyone is looking at this from all angles.

- 1) It will be devastating for patients and growers to lose the additional immature plants we had before Measure 91 and HB3400 were passed. If the committee feels “unlimited” is a bit much, great impose limits! But to limit the numbers to a smaller count (down to 12 from 18) than what was originally intended for the program would be hurting those that have already been hurt enough by the existing framework and regulatory environment. With the current model, it allows patients to keep mother plants, which were considered mature before due to their size, not their position in the growing cycle, this is particularly important when patients have found “the strain” that works for them, by having a mother plant, it ensures them unlimited access to their medicine. Take away the mothers, take away the security to their freedom from pain.
- 2) Bifurcating OLCC and OMMP in any way, shape, form or fashion is a mistake, OLCC is not a medical and health regulation body. By forcing patients and growers to register with OLCC, a non-medical body, you are essentially violating every single patient's right to privacy, while the OLCC may not have to know their condition, they will know that they are sick. This is a direct violation of the intent for HIPPA and medical privacy to ensure unlawful discrimination based on handicap or illness. I ask that you maintain the OMMP under the Oregon Health Authority, just as it has been maintained for the past 18 years. In addition, OLCC is not equipped policy wise or logistically to handle the OMMP program, they can barely protect what they have. In no way has OLCC demonstrated the level of responsibility necessary based on their reputation with alcohol use and minors in the past, not to mention alcohol use and their own Executive Directors.

That all being said, I support SB1057 with the -15, -16, -17, -18, -19 amendments proposed by Kris McAlister. I believe these to be reasonable considerations and limitations on all the OMMP Stakeholders and if anyone can speak from experience in the very areas being regulated its Kris.

In addition, I support the SB1057-15 amendment, in particular, as restoring the 18 immature plant limit for OMMP Growers at the very least keeps with the intention of the voters when they passed Measure 91 and said that the Ballot Initiative would not change anything in regards to the OMMP. At least this amendment would revert the rule to pre-M91 passage laws - before the Recreational Market decided to throw it's mother down the well as if it would exist without the medical program paving it's way.

I support the -16, because patients need to be more in charge of the OMMP program, since it is there to serve us patients. The OMMP program has been nothing but a cash cow for the State and has done nothing but reduce services to patients as it continued to increase the fees. A better situated Patient oversight Committee would help patients gain more of a voice in the OHA.

I support the -17, because Patients deserve a cap on their fees, especially since as of late OMMP isn't doing anything special for us in the first place other than providing us a registry for the cards and the medical growsites, and as of late, attempting to pass us off to the OLCC - and that's just preposterous.

I support the -18, because sick people need their cards now, not when the OMMP staff gets around to it.

I support the -19, because it seems like a viable solution to an all too familiar problem and the OMMP program could use the mechanisms and oversight that it will create. At the end of the day, the OMMP program is supposed to serve patients, it has done a poor job of that as of late, and as a patient, I deserve more, we all deserve more. What if it was your wife, your brother, your mother, your child?

I respectfully submit this as my testimony and ask that each one of you put yourself in the shoes of patients when you vote to change our program, we are sick and don't deserve to be criminalized after all we have had to overcome since 1998. Thank you for your time.

James Braxton Creel
Clackamas Oregon Resident