
From: Katie Z
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2017 11:06 PM
To: JMR Exhibits
Subject: OMMP Patient Testimony

Good afternoon,

My name is Kathleen Zinno, I am an OMMP patient and resident in Oregon. I have been a part of the program since 2013 when my health took a turn for the worse and I was in palliative care. I suffer from several rare conditions that require medicine grown a specific way, and a lot more than the typical patient. I consume roughly several pounds of cannabis a month (that is turned into an oral oil), without the oil I am unable to work or function like a normal adult. I suffer from severe pain and uncontrollable seizures, as well as brain damage from over 6 brain surgeries and a bad car accident. With cannabis you would not know I am sick, I look just like your peers.

Before Measure 91 laws I was able to access the right medication when I needed it without much concern and now with it's passing it's nearly impossible to gain the access I need which has caused undo stress on my health. I badly need to get on a new regimen but unable to afford it and few growers willing to give away profit making plants I am forced back into the medical system and try various pharmaceuticals to gain a foot hold of my current symptoms. At this time living in an apartment that doesn't allow me to grow my own medicine, or with the ability to grow my own I am left with very few options in my care, either advocate for a working program or go back on pharmaceuticals costing the state hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

I have the energy to share my voice, many patients don't have that option. I know hundreds of people just like me in the state of Oregon who are waiting for these changes to take place so they can stop worrying and start living. Could you imagine your child's future being held up by a room full of people changing the bill? Please consider the sickest and the poorest in your state when you make these changes.

I support the amendments 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 proposed in SB 1057. I believe they bring back changes pre- M 91, that allow patients the freedoms they lost. Lowering the cost of the card helps many low income patients trying alternative healthcare solutions. Creating a board WITH OMMP cardholders on it would be extremely wise because who would understand better than the very people on the program? The expedited cards help out the extremely sick by allowing them quicker access to vital medicine they need to survive or allow them to go out with dignity.

I really believe we need to remove the limits on plants and especially immature plants, or at least consider an option where patients with extreme need the access to more plants with a doctors recommendation. I need 16-24 plants a harvest (just for my own medicine), that means I need to make sure I have viable immature plants so that every single plant by harvest time is healthy and full of the life giving medicine I so desperately need. So many things can go wrong when you grow anything albeit a tomato or cannabis, you wouldn't limit the amount of seeds or immature tomato plants for a farmer why do it to patients?