



**Public Testimony Regarding House Bill 2198**

Madame Co-chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation:

Thank you all for continuing to help implement sound marijuana regulations for our great state. Of course, many challenges remain, but we have a lot to be proud of, especially in drastically decreasing arrests and citations, expunging old nonviolent offenses, creating more jobs and generating new revenue. There is much work remaining to assist small farmers, mom-and-pop businesses, and sick and disabled patients battling poverty. House Bill 2198, while not perfect, looks to be a step in the right direction with the proper amendments.

The Dash 7 and 8 amendments look to be moving towards an adequate policy and we would like to thank the advocates involved with crafting a policy that can work for most stakeholders, especially the work of Compassionate Oregon in always maintaining a focus on patients' needs. Allowing medical growers access to the OLCC recreational market, combined with the proper mix of tracking and regulation, the state can help patients and small farmers, while reducing the amount of marijuana on the illegal market.

While it is necessary to implement some tracking and rules to curtail the illicit market, imposing too restrictive rules and regulations will prove to be counterproductive. If regulatory hurdles push medical growers out of the licensed system, more marijuana will be sold illegally and more patients will be forced to buy unregulated cannabis. The most prudent policy is to bring as many people into the regulated system, best done by keeping the costs and regulations to a minimum.

One of the most important considered provisions of HB 2198 is allowing medical growers access to the OLCC recreational system. While 20 pounds a year per medical grower would be a good start in the right direction, allowing greater access to the OLCC system would better help OMMP participants and better combat the flow of marijuana into the illegal market.

Thanks again for working towards sensible cannabis policies that can work for all Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Anthony Johnson  
Director, New Approach Oregon