

**From:** Jennifer Alexander  
**To:** [JWMHS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding HB 2198  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9:15:29 PM

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To the Joint Ways & Means Committee:

My husband is a medical marijuana patient and has been for quite a few years. We live in a small upstairs apartment in a very dense neighborhood, and despite our previous efforts to grow marijuana here – it just isn't practical nor is it sufficient to meet his needs. A friend of mine in Southern Oregon agreed to allow my husband to grow his plants there, and since he lives in a remote location, he is able to produce enough to meet my husband's needs and those of a few other patients. This has proven to be a wonderful arrangement and we have been very happy with the arrangement.

Recently, we learned that he may no longer be able to allow us to grow there because of his remote location. Since his property is so remote, there isn't a formal address. Recent changes have made it so that despite being able to provide the exact GPS coordinates or tax lot for the grow site, his remote location is no longer an acceptable grow site. The property is literally the ideal location – it doesn't infringe on any neighbors, it is not accessible to children, it doesn't offend any landlords, it is an ideal growing environment, and so forth. Yet, his property won't be acceptable under the OMMP for what appears to be arbitrary reasons (particularly in the country – GPS is far more specific than a street address).

My friend has made huge sacrifices to provide medical marijuana to many patients for many years, and each time the laws change, he has to modify what he is doing, increase his out of pocket costs and workload and it has become more and more difficult for him to provide the generous service that he does. He is one of the growers who does this for the benefit of patients – without charging fees, while putting incredible wear and tear on his vehicles delivering medicine to patients all over the state, including many who are terminally ill with cancer and other illnesses. The ever changing laws increasingly make it more difficult for him to be generous and do what so many patients rely on him to do.

I have had trouble keeping up with the many laws that have been proposed since legalization of marijuana was implemented due to my work schedule. However, this particular issue is one that causes me great concern. Not only can we not afford to be going to the various dispensaries to purchase the medical marijuana my husband uses, even if we could, we do not get the quality nor the consistency that my friend is able to provide. And while my husband isn't terminally ill, many of those who rely on my friend are and would suffer enormously if my friend can no longer grow on his property as he has for years. Please remember those like my friend who have been working to help patients since the beginning and have invested all their blood, sweat and tears into ensuring that patients have access to quality medical marijuana without unnecessary obstructions.

HB 2198 specifically addresses the issue of allowing a tax lot or longitude/latitude or GPS as a marijuana grow site. This is critical for the many patients who rely on those living in remote locations to produce marijuana that they otherwise would not be able to produce for themselves.

Please also consider removing limitations that prevent them from being able to successfully grow multiple strains of their crop – allow for more large immature plants to provide the genetics for the next season of growing without requiring them to destroy multiple strains simply to maintain the allowable limits. Allow them to grow enough plants that they are able to successfully grow a crop without fear of running afoul of the laws. Allowing any excess to be taken in by the recreational market ensures that medical marijuana is not diverted and enables growers like my friend to offset some of the costs that they incur while helping patients. HB 2198 appears to take all of these things into account.

None of these concerns are new, and most of you are familiar with the complaints that patients have had for years regarding the difficulty they face in acquiring medical marijuana. With legalization, which allows all adults to grow their own plants or purchase it at a store, there is no reason to put up obstructions for those like my friend who are helping provide marijuana to patients at no cost or even those who do it for low cost. Please don't forget the patients who still depend on medical marijuana and the generosity of growers to deal with a variety of ailments and cannot afford to pay recreational market prices to fulfill their needs. Please pass HB 2198.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Alexander  
&  
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Beaverton, OR