

February 14, 2017

TO: The Honorable Brian Boquist, Chair
The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

FROM: Andre Ourso, MPH, JD
Section Manager, Medical Marijuana Program
Public Health Division
Oregon Health Authority

Subject: SB 130, Waivers fees for obtaining medical marijuana card for veterans who have total disability rating of at least 50 percent

Chair Boquist and members of the committee, I am Mr. Andre Ourso, Section Manager of the Medical Marijuana Program with the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority. I am here to present information related to the medical marijuana program in regards to SB130.

The medical marijuana program currently charges a reduced registry fee of \$20 for all veterans who apply for a medical marijuana card. It is estimated that about 5,300 veterans are currently enrolled in the program. That makes up approximately 9% of the program's applicants. It is unknown how many of the veterans enrolled are rated with a 50% total disability or higher. The number of veterans participating in the program continues to rise each month.

There will be some costs to the program if the \$20 fee is waived for those veterans who have a total disability rating of at least 50%. The cost will be associated with some minor OIS work to modify database systems to address the new fee. Overall, the effect on the program will be minimal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions.