

Joint Committee on Marijuana

RE: SB 308

This bill establishes a Task Force to identify barriers for social and private consumption of marijuana beyond what is done for tobacco users creating a privileged group. The fault in the task force directive is that it pre-determines the need is fair and equitable by asking for a report on recommended legislation.

The bill calls for the task force to develop legislation in consideration of individuals who want to consume marijuana but who do not have access to a private residence where consumption of Cannabis can take place. In other words, renters may not lawfully consume in their rental, but this bill directs the task force to consider rental units for lack of clarity. To mandate a place for consumption in rental units can only violate the rights of others and rental owners whether it requires a separate smoking room increasing rent for all or an outside location where smoke still drifts.

I also ask that the directive does not make accessibility for minors easier creating a health issue for all Oregonians. Nearly one in 10 eighth-graders and about one in five 11th graders surveyed last year said they use marijuana.

I find the directive to the task force as too broad and should be very limited to social venues that are acceptable to the neighborhood, which I think was the intent, but lacks specifics. I also ask that the task force provide protections against under age access.

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