

February 21, 2017

TO: The Honorable Brian Boquist, Chair
Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

FROM: Andre Ourso, JD, MPH
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 André Ourso, Section Manager of the Medical Marijuana Program with the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority. I am here to present information regarding the medical marijuana program as it relates to SB130.

The medical marijuana program currently charges a \$200 patient application fee. Veterans currently pay a reduced application fee of \$20. There are about 5,300 veterans currently registered in the program. That makes up approximately 9% of the program's applicants. However, the number of veterans participating in the program continues to rise each month. Severe or chronic pain is the most commonly indicated qualifying condition for both veterans and the general patient population. Approximately 85% of veterans registered in the program list severe or chronic pain as a condition, compared to 89% for the general registry patient population. PTSD is the second most commonly indicated condition for veterans registered with the program at approximately 29%, compared to around 8% for the general registry population. Patients may list more than one qualifying condition on an application.

It is estimated that 20% of registered veterans in the program are rated with a 50% total disability or higher. It is projected, by June 2019, there will be 10,267 veterans registered in the program and that 2,123 could be rated 50% total disability or higher. 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 work to

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modify database systems and some loss in fee revenue. Overall, the effect on the program will be minimal.

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