

July 5, 2017

**From The Desk Of
SENATOR GINNY BURDICK**

Re: Support for HB 2198 B

Members of the Oregon Senate:

We the undersigned encourage the Oregon Legislature to support the passage of HB 2198.

HB 2198 completes the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation's package of bills for the 2017 session and is the companion bill to SB 1057, passed by a strong majority of this body.

HB 2198 creates the Oregon Cannabis Commission to provide oversight and guidance for the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program. For the first time in the history of the OMMP program there will be an oversight body that reports back to the legislature on the status of the program in providing ongoing access to affordable cannabis as medicine. It will also provide guidance for research to support much needed scientific validation for the therapeutic uses of cannabis.

HB 2198 recognizes that a two-patient household that only produces for themselves should be able to continue to do so, and keeps this production out of the marketplace, in compliance with the Cole Memo.

Finally, HB 2198 will allow the limited transfer of medical marijuana produced by OMMP growers into the OLCC market. This product will enter the system through OLCC licensed wholesalers and processors thereby regulating its entry. In addition OLCC has the authority to limit or suspend entirely OMMP transfers should data indicate supply is exceeding demand beyond the markets ability to self-correct. Giving OMMP growers this opportunity will minimize diversion and allow the state to hold this up as further efforts to keep diversion under control.

The passage of HB 2198, along with SB 1057 and SB 56 earlier this session, creates a set of conditions that illustrates to the federal government that we are serious about both complying with our own laws and respecting the federal government's position.

HB 2198 will provide a future for OMMP patients and their providers and will ensure that those Oregonians who rely on cannabis as medicine can continue to do so while striking a healthy balance between the medical and recreational programs.

We urge your support for HB 2198 B.

