

Hello,

I am writing to you on behalf of medical marijuana patients in Oregon.

Over the past few years, many patients have chosen not to apply for or renew OHA marijuana patient registration. We can confirm this with the number of patients registered dropping off since 2017. The combination of the expense of OHA registration or renewal with reasonable, legal access to marijuana recreationally has motivated many patients to not apply or renew.

My husband has Multiple Sclerosis and is prescribed by his neurologist to use marijuana to control spasticity. He was a registered patient for several years but last year chose not to renew. The fees associated with renewal and the availability of recreational marijuana made it not worth the time and expense.

My dear friend has a seizure disorder and also decided not to renew her OHA registration for the same reasons as my husband.

Registration and renewal have been a time and financial expense that haven't made sense considering the availability to purchase safe marijuana recreationally.

I worry that if licensed marijuana retailers are deemed "non-essential" or permitted to only serve card holding patients that many patients will suffer or turn to potentially dangerous marijuana from the black market for relief.

I believe that there are a number of ways that marijuana retailers and the supply chain that supports them, can and have implemented public safety precautions to mitigate Coronavirus exposure. All of us in the marijuana business community are committed to updating procedures as recommended by health authorities in order to continue offering safe access to marijuana.

I urge you to consider these concerns when making decisions about how to respond to the Corona - COVID-19 crisis in Oregon. Please continue to allow Marijuana Retailers and licensees in the supply chain to operate in order to serve those in need and avoid any risk posed by patients turning to the black market.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter,

Marissa Rodriguez

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kriskrane/2020/03/18/how-the-coronavirus-pandemic-will-affect-the-cannabis-industry/#58ddcd35adf>



MARISSA RODRIGUEZ

VP OF COMPLIANCE & OPERATIONS • SWEET LIFE DISTRIBUTION / URBAN PHARMS

MARISSA@SWEETLIFEDISTRO.COM • SWEETLIFEDISTRO.COM • [INSTAGRAM](#)

Mobile (503) 680-0364

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers