

From: [Jeremy Kwit](#)
To: Christian.GASTON@oregon.gov; Jeffrey.RHOADES@oregon.gov; [Exhibits JSCVR](#)
Subject: Re: Covid Chaos // Corona virus response and relief efforts
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:07:16 PM

I am writing on behalf of medical marijuana patients, adult 21+ cannabis consumers, and all Oregon citizens in general,

During this time of Covid Chaos, please permit license cannabis Retailers to continue to operate. Cannabis is an essential product for most people, whether they have an OHA medical card or not. Cannabis helps people to cope with their challenging life affairs. While I know Retailers cannot communicate that cannabis has any effects or benefits, the fact remains that our community self-medicates with cannabis to alleviate pain, anxiety, and to support their sense of well-being. We provide important health resource to our communities.

Please don't limit our sales to medical-only. Over the past few years, many patients have chosen not to apply for or renew OHA marijuana patient registration. It is expensive and challenging to get an OMMP card. There's little reason to do so as the variety of medical-only products, such as edibles or tinctures, is extremely limited non-existent. When we began "early rec" sales many years ago, we found that 30% of our patrons were OMMP cardholders. Today 5% of our patrons are OMMP cardholders. The big disparity does not mean 25% of our patrons are no longer in medical need; rather they are adults who simply lack a medical card.

We have ODA, OHA and County Health Department hygiene and sanitation posters in our stores. Our customers say we are the first and only community resource that has posted such posters. Such health postings are not visible at Costco, gas stations, or my local grocery stores. All of us in the marijuana business community are committed to updating procedures as recommended by the health authorities. If licensed marijuana retailers are deemed "non-essential" or permitted to only serve card holding patients, most consumers will turn to potentially dangerous marijuana from the black market.

Finally, please be sure cannabis companies are included in any relief packages.

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

Jeremy Kwit