

Hello,

I am a patient with Crohn's Disease that has relied on cannabis medically for over 15 years. I am writing to you today in very strong support of S.B. 639.

As a renter I was forced to sign an addendum to my lease acknowledging that my landlord is following federal law and I am not allowed to use or possess cannabis of any kind for any reason in my apartment. Renters all over Oregon have had to do the same, including other patients with serious and chronic illnesses. Because of this I am not technically allowed to consume at home nor am I allowed to consume it on a public street corner. That said, I also have no desire to stand outside in the cold to take my medicine when I am sick. You have left patients and the poor (who disproportionately rent), extremely marginalized groups, in an untenable situation.

Unfortunately the benefits of legalization have gone mostly to business and not towards social justice and consumer rights. I have the right to buy it, pay tax on it and possess it (when I am not home of course) but I basically don't have the right to consume anywhere. The State of Oregon is collecting tax dollars and enjoying increased tourism because of cannabis, but tourists, renters and medical patients alike can't even consume it legally.

There are two bills in the Oregon Legislature this year on this issue. I strongly support SB 639 and opposed HB 2233. We need the right to consume legally, this includes indoor smoking as I don't think I should be forced outside in the cold - especially as a medical patient - just to exercise my right to consume my medicine.

The opposition will bring up the ICAA, which was changed after Oregon legalized specifically to prevent legal social consumption for people like me. I would point out that just south of our border in California - where the first ICAA in the nation was passed - there is already indoor social consumption (including smoking) of cannabis happening in legal and licensed lounges in some cities like San Francisco, Oakland and West Hollywood.

Please stop marginalizing the poor and medical patients in the pursuit of pot profits. We are the reason legalization happened and post-legalization we seem to be forgotten.

Thank you,

Angela Bacca