

Dear [COMMITTEE: sbgg.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov],

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote in favor of S.B. 639.

I believe this issue is about economic fairness and social justice and that the best path toward social consumption does not create onerous and expensive barriers to entry in the business market or restrict the consumer's ability to consume indoors.

Consumption of cannabis in public is illegal, yet tourists and patients and adults that rent rather than own their homes have the right to purchase and possess cannabis but no space they can legally consume. Enforcement of public consumption laws disproportionately targets the poor and people of color.

SB 639 would revert the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) to its original wording pre-legalization. After Oregonians voted to legalize marijuana for adults in 2014, the state amended the ICAA specifically to prohibit social consumption space. We believe that in the interest of public safety and fairness, regulations to allow smoking cannabis in these lounges are not only essential for the health and safety of users and the public, but entirely manageable. Localities in California, which passed the original ICAA in 1976, have already licensed and regulated such spaces.

In the end, social consumption lounges would also attract more tourists to Oregon and allow for promotion of our local craft producers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Bachara
Oregon NORML
Gresham resident