

To whom it may concern,

It is my understanding that SB 639 is intended to allow Oregon cannabis businesses to open "cannabis cafes", or in other words, consumption spaces. I am reaching out to you today to ask that you give serious consideration to passing this bill. Many Oregon citizens lack access to legal consumption spaces. I manage a dispensary in a small rural town, and a good portion of our clients are elderly patients. People who rely on cannabis products to treat a myriad of illnesses and conditions, from common arthritis, to neurological conditions, to cancer. They depend on cannabis for daily function, relief from constant pain, and so much more. Many of our clients also live in nursing homes or other assisted living facilities. Because many of these places have no-smoking rules, our clients are left with no where to consume their medicine. They cannot take their medicine in the comfort of their own homes like any other pharmaceutical drug. These people, and others like them, need and deserve a space where they can use this medicine that allows them to live comfortable lives. It is not right that Oregon citizens have the legal right to consume cannabis, but have no where to do so.

I urge you to consider passing legislation that would allow dispensaries and/or cafes to provide safe, legal, supervised areas for consumption. This legislation could also cut back on public consumption by giving citizens a place to do it legally. Furthermore, this legislation could reduce cannabis use by minors by placing consumption in regulated spaces. It would be much safer for adults who have children at home to consume in an adult-only area where children cannot access the cannabis.

Please take these words into consideration at the Feb 28th hearing on SB639.

Thank you,  
Nicole Martin