

SB 218 - Position: Against.

Chair Riley, Co-Chair Girod and members of the committee,

My name is Sarah Duff of Portland. I serve on the Board of Directors for Compassionate Oregon and OR NORML. I am against a cap on production licenses for several reasons.

1. The state should try harder to get excess cannabis in the hands of medical marijuana patients. Patients battling severe illness and pain who need concentrated forms of cannabis which will require 10 times more than the average user. It is very complicated for an OLCC adult use licensed Producer to donate to a patient because it has to be done through a dispensary. Ideally some portion of the tax money would go toward the wholesale cost of cannabis to be provided to patients which will substantially decrease the use of opiates in Oregon. Ultimately, until the state makes it easy for excess cannabis to get into patient's hands I will be against a cap on growing.
2. When we pass a bill that allows for export like SB 582 then we will want that excess cannabis so businesses can sell to states who do not have the best growing environment or the resources to produce quality cannabis. We may soon see a change in federal law that would allow Oregon licensees to sell to European markets skeptical of local cannabis production because of it's taxation on their electrical grid and water supply.
3. If we pass SB 639, the cannabis lounge, event and tour bill, then we will need more supply to satisfy the demand from making Oregon more of a cannabis tourism destination.
4. Prices will increase with less supply which makes it harder for legal markets to compete with illegal markets.
5. Just because we are trying a better approach to prohibition here does not mean we can win the war on drugs with this new approach plus cracking down on illegal cannabis growing and sales. As long as it is illegal somewhere, there will be people willing to take a chance to make money and they are more likely to grow it here because we have one of the world's best growing environments. This cap will not stop illegal growing and sales.