

Senate Committee on Business and General Government
c/ o sbgg.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
RE: SB 639

Dear Chair Riley, Vice Chair Girod and members of the Committee,

My name is Samantha Montanaro and I am testifying today on behalf of a group of mothers and women, almost 200 of whom called and wrote their representatives in support of SB639. (Asks group of women in the room to raise their hands) Today, we are here on behalf of our children and the next generation of youth growing up in this unique age of cannabis legalization. The conflicting messages our youth are receiving today as legalization sweeps the nation and the world, leaves parents and kids alike to navigate this confusing landscape on our own.

Public Health claims that lounges and temporary events *potentially* could increase exposure to underage youth. However, the Department of Preventive Medicine(1) conducted a study that found that children don't learn to smoke from being in public - they learn to smoke from their parents and peers at home. By Oregon NOT providing safe spaces for adults, like me, to make a *personal choice* and *exercise their right and freedom as adults* to consume a legal product, it appears to us mothers that our Oregon representatives would prefer parents to only consume cannabis at home, where our children live. This message is confusing to your constituents and tourists alike.

The journal Pediatric Research(2) stated "We would recommend that you not smoke in the same house as a child," Yet under current state of law, there is nowhere I can legally consume cannabis other than my home. I am a law abiding citizen who is active in my local community and cares about being a good example for the next generation and this is just wrong.

Harvard Health(3) recommends that parents just "don't smoke at all". This is simply an unrealistic ask - we just legalized a substance that has been smoked by humans for nearly 10,000 years. "Just Say No" didn't work when I grew up and it won't work now. Fear based propoganda and misinformation is still rampant and today we urge the committee to use common sense by supporting SB 639.

I am a medical cannabis patient for scoliosis and osteoarthritis, and thanks to cannabis, I have not been prescribed opiates or benzos in almost 5 years. According to the current law, the one place I can officially consume cannabis legally is in my home, out of public view. Even though I am lucky to be a homeowner, my corner lot yard is not out of public view. The one place I can consume cannabis legally is in the same space my child lives and breathes. Again, I'm lucky - most renters, elderly and disabled residents don't have any options.

Regulated, legal cannabis consumption lounges and events are the future of creating containers for all to coexist comfortably, as we are seeing California swiftly implement, and we could be using the massive amounts of tourism dollars to fund public education and harm reduction. Ignoring this problem is not going to make it go away. The time is now to legalize cannabis consumption spaces in Oregon. Thank you for hearing us today. We urge the committee to pass SB639 to give us the space we deserve to use cannabis away from children.

Samantha Montanaro
Mother, homeowner and CoFounder of Tokeativity from Portland, OR

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19256286>
2. <https://health.usnews.com/wellness/articles/2017-01-06/secondhand-marijuana-smoke-and-your-children>
3. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/secondhand-marijuana-smoke-and-kids-2018060514012>