

Chair Lively and House Committee on Economic Development Members:

As Chief Petitioner and Director of Oregon Measure 91's legalization initiative, I have been proud to see our state benefit in many ways economically and morally from ending prohibition and regulating licensed cannabis commerce. Our great state has saved resources by stopping thousands of unnecessary arrests and citations while creating thousands of jobs and generating tens of millions in additional revenue.

One major flaw of the regulations implemented after M91's passage has been the curtailing of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) to the point where many patients have lost access to their medicine due to burdensome restrictions placed upon their registered cultivators. Oregon House Bill 3395 will help many sick and disabled patients, particularly those surviving on fixed incomes that can't afford to purchase cannabis or don't have the ability to travel to a licensed retail outlet because of mobility issues or the fact that they live in a locality that has banned retailers.

House Bill 3395 is a sensible, common sense proposal that is a win-win for Oregon, both morally and fiscally. More patients battling severe and debilitating medical conditions will have access to medical cannabis, which will decrease the use of addictive and deadly opiates. (I have included links to a landmark study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association, Internal Medicine* as well as some related information on the issue.)

Please pass HB 3395.

Sincerely,

Anthony Johnson
Director New Approach Oregon

Portland, Oregon

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2676999>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/04/02/598787768/opioid-use-lower-in-states-that-eased-marijuana-laws?t=1554719927109>

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/access-to-medical-marijuana-reduces-opioid-prescriptions-2018050914509>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/04/180402202236.htm>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6135562/>