

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Fahey and Wilson and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development~

I am writing you today because I am opposed to HB 4034, which directs Oregon Liquor Control Commission to establish by rule process to register medical marijuana grow sites. This Bill is not appropriate for a "short session" as the ramifications to thousands of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens have not been thoroughly vetted and considered. Over 75% of Oregon's Medical Marijuana PATIENTS (meaning marijuana is prescribed by a DOCTOR) will lose access to their needed MEDICINE!!! The demographics of the OMMP patients who will be impacted is a majority of people 60 years of age or older, VETERANS and people on SSI and Disability. In other words your rushed, Short session inappropriate bill will harm elders and veterans and Oregon's most vulnerable citizens. This is unacceptable in-and-of-itself and I will remind you Oregon voters passed M91 in 2014 with explicit language that prohibited the OMMP from being negatively impacted!!!

HB 4034 is WAY BEHIND THE CURVE!!! If the intention of the bill is to harm vulnerable Oregonians, shame on you. I believe the intention of this Bill is to CURB LEAKAGE TO THE UNREGULATED MARKET for Cannabis. As has been made painfully obvious in testimonies this session, that time has already passed. As Mr. Bovett of AOC stated in his testimony to the House Committee on Ag. and Land Use (02/05/20-1 p.m.-1:12:07) the leakage via the State's hemp program is "a massive bleed out DAILY". In no uncertain terms, the Governor, the OLCC and State Legislators cannot deny their knowledge of the "massive" leakage to the unregulated market via the State's weak and understaffed hemp program. The "cat is out of the bag" and therefore this Bill completely misses the mark! There is no reason to harm Oregon's medical marijuana patients when this bill will do NOTHING to curb the unregulated market. Outlaws can now easily obtain a hemp permit and grow hundreds, if not thousands, of uninspected acres of HIGH-GRADE THC in the wide open!! To be clear, there is NO MANDATORY TESTING AND INSPECTION (much less "disposal of") for the 60,000+ acres of "hemp" in the State!!!

HB 4034 is TOO LATE to stop leakage and harming Oregonian's safe access to their needed medicine is NOT JUSTIFIABLE when the hemp program is now the biggest avenue for diversion!!! This Bill will only HARM and will completely miss-the-mark of curbing diversion! The hemp program now has that completely covered!!!

This short-session is not the appropriate time, because of LACK of time, to consider a bill with such negative impacts to hundreds of Oregonians!!! It also is barely a "scratch in the surface" to cope with diversion while the hemp program is so out-of-control.

DO NOT PASS HB 4034 out of committee! Let these issues be considered more thoroughly in a long-session, which is only appropriate! Especially considering it is completely obvious the bill misses the mark and is only harmful, not effective.

Thank you sincerely for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Lorianne E. Carey
Josephine County, OR