

81st OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2021 Regular Session Senate Bill 567 Sponsored by Senators GELSER, PATTERSON; Senator STEINER HAYWARD (Presession filed.)

Oregon Patient Protection Bill

3/3/2021

To the Chair and Member of the Senate Committee on Healthcare:

I support SB 567 with amendments to protect the civil rights and health data integrity of patients who use cannabis medically or therapeutically in Oregon. I have been advising Compassionate Oregon for years on public health matters related to information systems for patient data and systems used to track cannabis in the supply chain. In this work, I've seen many instances of medical chart inaccuracies due to bias and stigma against cannabis use. I have even tracked several complaints of HIPAA violations through the federal complaint process. I conclude that cannabis consumers, especially OMMP patients, put themselves at risk for medical discrimination and harm by disclosing their cannabis use to their healthcare providers.

And they have no recourse to redress the targeted patient discrimination.

This leads to harm on many fronts. Not only does it compromise the individual's healthcare and well-being, the cost of mistakes or omissions due to bias compromises the entire health system.

And when major health systems in the state plan data mining of EMR records to better understand health impacts of cannabis, it is imperative that these data are as free of error and bias as possible.

It seems cruel and unjust to "legalize" substances for health purposes in Oregon and yet exclude these groups from basic patient protections.

SB 567 can be amended to fix this serious civil rights problem. Your help is needed.

Please visit my presentation for more details on how the integrity of the electronic medical record is impacted by bias and discrimination against patients who use cannabis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Compassionate Oregon, a patient advocacy group, and to address a serious problem in Oregon regarding patient rights.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Porter, MSSM, GISP

Health Environment Justice

Eugene, OR

On behalf of Compassionate Oregon