

Dear House Committee On Judiciary,

I strongly urge you to please pass HB 3112. The Oregon Cannabis Equity Act is indispensable to reconcile the disparate impact our past and current cannabis laws have on BIPOC communities and cannabis users as a whole.

First and most importantly, free and automatic expungement for cannabis offenses is undeniably necessary now that Oregon has legalized recreational cannabis use. No one should be affected or haunted by their cannabis related "criminal record" while others reap the benefits of legally producing and distributing cannabis, especially taking into account how criminalization and over-policing of cannabis disproportionately impacted BIPOC communities before Measure 91 passed. Doing away with the expungement fees is also a great way to resolve the social justice issue of monetary solutions skewedly benefitting the privileged.

Second, the OLCC Cannabis Equity License recognizes the flaw in our current cannabis licensing process which perpetuates a white monopoly in cannabis business ownership. By reducing fees, creating licenses reserved for equity licensees, and providing funding support to BIPOC cannabis business owners, the cannabis industry can become more diverse and inclusive. I like to think of this bill as a form of affirmative action for the cannabis industry.

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Lastly, relying on my prior two points, I believe the Cannabis Equity Governing Body is equally as important and necessary to assure social justice in Oregon's growing cannabis industry. Having a diverse governing body is crucial to ensure the interest of all affected communities are heard and taken into consideration when major decisions are made.

I truly hope you pass this bill as a significant tool in what should be cannabis justice and reparations.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Lina Rodriguez