

February 8, 2021

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Chair Wilde and members of the Committee,  
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My name is Sunnie Day Sanchez and I am an Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) Patient. In 2018, I had the opportunity to participate on an OHA RAC concerning rules introducing the Cannabis Tracking System (Metr) to registered grow sites with 12 or more plants. In 2019, I also had the opportunity to participate on the OHA RAC and on an Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) RAC concerning legislation passed in 2019. I am very familiar with the rules and issues surrounding the OMMP.

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I oppose HB 2445 because it creates a cost barrier to safe and affordable lab tested product for OMMP Patients.

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The OMMP consists of just 22,603 OMMP Patients, according to the January 2021 OHA OMMP Statistical Snapshot. Less than two thirds of OMMP Patients exist on the registry today compared to 2016 and 57.5(percent) of them are eligible for a reduced fee.

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OMMP Patients simply cannot afford the additional cost of the marijuana tax to obtain their medicine. Some cannot afford to purchase medicine from OLCC Retail Outlet.

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Removing the Medical Marijuana Tax Exemption will create barriers for the most vulnerable of patients now and in the future. It could have unintended consequences such as an increase in the illicit market and deaths from contaminated marijuana/hemp cannabinoid inhalants. Some OMMP Patients (adults and minors) have cancer so it is extremely important to keep OMMP Patients coming through the doors of a regulated market with lab testing.

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Please do not pass HB 2445 out of committee.

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I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony to the House Committee on General Government. If a sunset is necessary, can we please amend this bill to sunset the Marijuana Tax Exemption in the year 2038?

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Thank you all for your time and consideration.

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Respectfully,  
Sunnie Day Sanchez  
OMMP Patient, Benton County