

## **Testimony in support of HB 4142**

I am here in strong support of HB 4142 — Oregon’s version of Ryan’s Law.

Since 2015, Oregon law — ORS 475C.791 — has allowed Oregon Medical Marijuana Program patients to designate a hospice, palliative care provider, home health agency, or residential facility as a “facility or organizational caregiver.” The Oregon Health Authority created an attestation process to implement that authority. Facilities must affirm they have significant responsibility for managing the patient’s well-being, designate a responsible individual, and confirm authority to serve as an OMMP caregiver.

In other words, this authority has existed in statute for a decade.

Yet utilization has been almost nonexistent. As of January 2025, OMMP statistics show only one organizational caregiver designation serving eight patients. In January 2026, only one designation served three patients.

That tells us something important: the legal framework exists, but facilities lack clarity, structure, and confidence in how to implement it.

HB 4142 addresses that gap and,

- **Applies only to registered OMMP patients.** It ensures that patients who are already lawfully using medical cannabis are not forced to abandon that therapy when entering hospice or residential care.
- **Does not create new participation beyond existing law.** It creates guardrails, structure, and training so that when a patient makes this deeply personal medical decision, facilities know how to respond safely and professionally.
- **Requires written policy** regarding the medical use of cannabis and
- **Provides educational training** for direct care staff who are designated as OMMP caregivers.

We have also made two significant improvements since prior sessions.

- First, we worked closely with the Oregon Health Authority to eliminate the fiscal impact that previously raised concerns and to clarify language to facilitate rulemaking without additional cost.
- Second, we narrowed the scope of required training so that only direct care staff designated as OMMP caregivers must complete the education. This significantly reduces the burden on facilities while ensuring appropriate oversight and guidance.

Ryan’s Law has been adopted in California, Minnesota and Maryland. Similar legislation has been introduced this year in Washington State under WA HB2152. Oregon has long been a leader in patient autonomy and end-of-life dignity. HB 4142 is fully consistent with that legacy and ensures structure,



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training, and most importantly, it ensures that OMMP patients can exercise rights already granted to them under Oregon law.

For some patients, cannabis serves as an alternative or complement to high-dose opioids. For families, it can mean a loved one is more alert, more comfortable, and able to share meaningful time together in their final days

At its core, this bill is about dignity, autonomy, and quality of life at the end of life.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 4142.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions

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