

# Support for HB 4142 – Hospice & Palliative Care Autonomy

Dear Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of HB 4142.

I have personally faced the possibility of hospice care twice before the age of 50. I know what it feels like to sit quietly while physicians discuss comfort care, symptom management, and dignity. I know the weight of decisions where quality of life becomes the central focus. I am deeply grateful to be here today. Many are not.

HB 4142 is not about expanding recreational cannabis access, nor is it about dismissing valid public health concerns. Responsible regulation and careful oversight matter.

Protection of minors matters. Thoughtful guardrails matter.

This bill is about compassion within hospice and palliative care settings. It is about clarity for facilities and healthcare professionals. It is about ensuring that patients navigating serious illness are not left in regulatory uncertainty when seeking comfort.

In hospice care, powerful medications are routinely administered to ease suffering — opioids, benzodiazepines, sedatives — each with known risks and side effects. For some patients, cannabis may provide relief from nausea, appetite loss, neuropathic discomfort, anxiety, or insomnia with a different side effect profile. For others, it may not be appropriate. That determination should remain within structured clinical judgment between patient and provider.

The conversation before you is not about eliminating risk. Nearly every medication used in hospice carries risk. The question is whether we allow responsible, medically supervised options to be available when patients and providers determine it is appropriate.

HB 4142 can provide measured safeguards such as:

- Clear facility protocols
- Physician documentation and oversight
- Defined contraindications
- Secure storage standards
- Operational clarity and liability protection for providers

Oregon has already recognized cannabis within its legal framework. This legislation simply ensures that hospice and palliative care environments have clarity, structure, and appropriate oversight in how that framework applies to patient comfort.

When facing the possibility of hospice care, the desire is not intoxication. It is relief. It is rest. It is the ability to breathe more comfortably, to sleep, to eat, and to remain present with loved ones during profoundly meaningful moments.

HB 4142 represents a careful, compassionate step forward — one that respects regulation, honors clinical judgment, and supports dignity in hospice care.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully, 

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