



Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hyden, Members of the Committee.

I am Michael Rochlin, RN, a member of the American Cannabis Nurses Association (ACNA), a non-profit organization of nurses with specialized expertise in cannabinoid therapeutics. The ACNA is recognized by the American Nurses Association, which includes the Oregon Nurses Association chapter.

I am reaching out to inform you of the upcoming cannabis-related legislation being proposed by Compassionate Oregon, a nonprofit organization working with the Oregon legislature. This proposed legislation seeks to expand access to cannabis for elderly patients in palliative, hospice, and residential care settings in Oregon.

As a long-time leader in the field of medicinal cannabis, Oregon is uniquely positioned to adopt a model that allows registered cannabis patients to designate hospice and palliative care organizations as caregivers, facilitating cannabis use when necessary.

House Bill 4142 will expand upon this framework by offering additional guidance to ensure the safe and effective use of cannabis in these settings. Specifically, the bill will establish written policies and procedures for the administration, dosing, and handling of cannabis, along with staff training in cannabis pharmacology, dosing, delivery modalities, and identifying potential contraindications. Furthermore, the bill will provide vital protections for nurses, safeguarding them from civil penalties or disciplinary action for discussing the benefits and risks of cannabis with patients.

In my professional experience, we have witnessed patients facing significant challenges in accessing cannabis as a therapeutic option. Despite growing evidence supporting its efficacy, many patients encounter resistance from healthcare providers who are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with cannabis as a treatment. This hesitance perpetuates stigma and misinformation, ultimately leaving patients underserved. Compounding these challenges is the ongoing federal prohibition of cannabis, which further limits patient access to potentially life-saving treatments.

The American Cannabis Nurses Association strongly supports House Bill 4142 and similar legislation to expand cannabis access for patients in palliative, hospice, and residential care settings in Oregon. As a trusted source of medical cannabis nursing expertise, ACNA is committed to providing legislative leaders with evidence-based insights to ensure that policies promote both patient safety and health equity.

Please support HB 4142 and move it to the floor.