



HB 4014-1

TO: Joint Interim Committee on Marijuana Legalization
FR: Amy Margolis, Oregon Cannabis Association
DA: February 2, 2016
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 4014

Chairs Lininger and Burdick, Members of the Committee.:

My name is Amy Margolis and I represent the Oregon Cannabis Association. The Oregon Cannabis Association is Oregon's largest professional organization representing the cannabis business community at the local, state and federal level. Our members include more than 100 cultivators, processors, edible makers, dispensaries, and allied businesses including laboratories, security and transportation companies, and providers of legal and financial services. **I am here today to testify in support of HB 4014-1s.**

HB 4041-1 addresses a number of important changes to Oregon's emerging regulatory framework for legalized cannabis, including, residency requirements, adjustment of OLCC fees and security requirements, adjustment of technical fees, patient card renewal, juvenile code adjustments, youth prevention, seed related research and Oregon tribal issues. The Oregon Cannabis Association is in particular, pleased to support efforts to address residency requirements. The Legislature's original residency requirement and subsequent OLCC 51% requirement has proved to be challenging in a number of ways as cannabis businesses seek to meet the state's business regulatory structures and related costs while trying to attract investments necessary for long-term growth. Additionally, the Association supports efforts to shift the effective date of medical limits to better align the limitation with the timing of licensing.

As the state's emerging cannabis industry moves forward through the licensing process that the Legislature established in 2015, it is imperative that we remain focused on a workable framework that would, in short, end a failed policy of criminalizing recreational marijuana use, and allow for the emergence of regulated cannabis businesses that would contribute to the state's economy and revenue system. As executive director of the association, I have seen first hand the strong and responsible steps forward this business community has made as we prepare for OLCC licensing.

But as with any new regulatory system attempting to balance competing public policy objectives, our members have also run into a number of potential obstacles that, if left unaddressed, threaten to undermine they systems this committee and various state agencies have worked so hard to create.

First, the Oregon Cannabis Association strongly supports repealing all residency requirements for investors in cannabis businesses. Our members have always been concerned about residency requirements because they have the unintended effect of

The Oregon Cannabis Association is a non-profit professional association representing cultivators, processors, edible makers, dispensaries, and allied businesses including laboratories, security and transportation companies, and providers of legal and financial services to cannabis-related businesses throughout Oregon.



making it more difficult for smaller, local and family owned businesses to attract investors. Residency requirements also increase barriers faced by Oregon businesses owned by women, people of color, and others who have traditionally had limited access to capital.

We appreciate the Committee's efforts to ensure a level playing field for Oregon businesses and look forward to working together to find ways to support a diverse, robust and healthy cannabis business community in our state.

The Oregon Cannabis Association is thrilled that Oregon's cannabis business community is becoming a strong, emerging opportunity that will help improve Oregon's economy, provide living wage jobs and put Oregon on the map as a premier destination for the best cannabis in the country. It has been a pleasure to participate as an active partner with the Legislature and the Executive Branch, as well as our local governments, to help craft the rules that will propel us forward and implement the will of the voters.

###