

CHRIS CONRAD

— *Consultant, author, court-qualified cannabis expert* —

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To: Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Re: Action to ban private cannabis bars and social lounges in Oregon

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to oppose the proposed action to ban private cannabis bars and social lounges in Oregon.

- 1) I have qualified as a cannabis expert more than 320 times in at least 35 California counties, as well as federal courts and other States. This can be detailed by viewing my curriculum vitae, available as a download from www.chrisconrad.com.
- 2) Since 1988 I have studied the scientific research on cannabis going back centuries.
- 3) In 1988, US Drug Enforcement Agency's Administrative Law Judge declared that cannabis is one of the "safest therapeutically active substances known to mankind," less toxic than potatoes, and that there has never been a single confirmed death due to cannabis overdose.
- 4) That is still true, there remains not a single death.
- 5) In the 1970s the US National Institute on Drug Abuse authorized a study of cannabis by Dr. Donald Tashkin, who found that there was no link between cannabis and lung cancer, emphysema or pulmonary obstruction other than bronchitis. That risk was held to be less than the risks posed by traffic pollution.
- 6) John Hopkins hospital did a study on second hand smoke and found that even in the most extreme closed box situations being exposed to ambient cannabis smoke for hours without ventilation, there was little to no detectable impairment.
- 7) This proposal is ill-advised as well as unscientific and punitive.
- 8) I am aware that millions of people consume cannabis both legally and illegally throughout the United States, including Oregon.

- 9) I personally have spoken to thousands of individuals who regularly smoke cannabis without any notable health effects.
- 10) I only know of two individuals who have had bronchitis and a handful who have allergic reactions to the smoke of cannabis.
- 11) The solution to the first problem is to stop smoking cannabis. The solution to the second is to either avoid exposure by not going into locations where cannabis is being consumed on site or to ventilate the locations to avoid smoke build up.
- 12) I am aware that people who come to Oregon as tourists who consume cannabis do not have easy access to locations in which to consume them.
- 13) The most likely effect of banning on site consumption will be counter-productive; an increase in clandestine consumption in open areas, which is contrary to the purposes of the legalization initiative of 2014.
- 14) Based on all the foregoing, in my opinion the agency should vote down this overbroad and dangerous proposal, initiate a long-term study of the effects of exposure to cannabis smoke, and to require ventilation at facilities that allow on-site consumption.
- 15) I strongly recommend reversing course and undertaking a review of the studies compiled by Paul Armentano before taking any further action to restrict freedom and encourage illicit activity, such as banning on site consumption.

I, Chris Conrad, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct except as to those matters stated under information and belief, and as to those, I believe them to be true.

Sincerely,



Chris Conrad