

Madams Co-Chair, Esteemed Legislators, Members of the Public

For the record, my name is Kris McAlister, and I am from Lane County.

I am a patient, yes. I am also a caregiver, as well as a nonprofit grower.

I apologize if my last testimony was too abrasive. Business interests demanding fair, from the system, at the cost of those providing where our system has been absent, pained me.

I have yet to be able to make even, much less a living, while my patient load grows, with growers seeking profits leaving their former charges behind for the opportunity in viceland.

I was born with my conditions, saw them exacerbated by our socio-economics, and worsened through legislated yet under-provided healthcare as a child of Oregon. Fair is not a word that comes from my lips, when seeking reform, because I learned a long time ago, that fair doesn't amount to much in our realities. Understanding outlines the gaps, where fair has been absent. Tools to fill those gaps, are what I ask for. Not extra market, not higher fees.

I understand that, on average, legislators in our state can expect a wage for their duties, at approximately, \$23,000, a year. I, from what I perceive to be a good authority, understand that a vice market grower might, in an ideal world, expect, \$40k, a year, if they take advantage of the market moves presented in other bills.

My average patient lives, as I do, off of \$9,000 or less, a year. My average medical grower whom I exchange clones, or cover a modality they can not produce or vice versa, live on between \$1,000-2,000 a month, before taxes, if not less, can not afford health insurance, and has had their taxes, rent and utilities go up in the past two years. This is not counting the permits and fee increases, not reflected in the permitting document for this work. If you consider \$500 out of \$9,0000 to cover 12 patients without cost them, feasible, I ask what you might consider \$9-12k in fees for the same level of work, and reward, might do to someone who serves more than takes.

Many who assured us, the indigent growers, caregivers, that M91 wouldn't affect our ability to provide for our own, offered explanations as to how it couldn't happen, if we, as patients, paid \$300-500 an hour, should we not understand the writ of the initiative.

My warmest regards to the Confederated Tribes, who had the option to vote and determine the path of their participation. I would love to see our patients offered the same kind of opportunity, when it comes to how items may affect their lives, livelihood, and future generations

With a few modifications, I feel we could reduce suffering of thousands, expand opportunity for thousands, and keep our Oregon made products in Oregon hands, aiding in both our economic recovery and social accountability

This resonates with me as an Oregonian medical cannabis provider, who has watched unintended consequences hurt those who are the most vulnerable.

Please consider legislative actions that put our patients in compassionate hands, not invisible ones.

Respectfully,

Kris McAlister
Springfield