

To: The Honorable Co-Chairs Burdick and Lininger  
Members of the Committee

From: Anthony Taylor  
Compassionate Oregon

Re: SB 56-32

I come before you tonight to ask you consider one more amendment - the -32's to SB 56.

Under SB 1057 The cost for patients that cannot grow their own medicine at their own home and must therefore find another place to do so is going to be devastating and nothing in any of the catch up bills except this amendment will change this dynamic.

Thousands of patients will lose their growers because many growers now providing for other patients will drop to 12 plants or less to avoid reporting and leave any patients they were providing for without a grower. Others will simply drop out of the program unable to afford the rising costs and will be forced into purchasing their medicines from unregulated sources or at retail outlets where quality is down, prices are up and availability is unpredictable in many areas. Neither option is affordable for half the OMMP patients on fixed or low incomes.

This is a tough issue especially for agencies in today's budget crunch. I could have spoken to this last week and should have. What brings me before you tonight asking you to consider this amendment is a letter a friend of mine shared with me. It is a letter he wrote to Rep. Wilson concerning the effect the higher costs would have on a patient of his and of his own future with the OMMP Program. This letter not only makes a case for easing the costs associated with being a patient grower but it represents the length to which these growers will go to ensure those Oregonians that can benefit from cannabis but cannot produce it themselves or afford to buy it at the store can get it through compassionate growers like my friend.

I have spoken of this enormous burden to this committee before. The -32 amendment provides an opportunity to ease this burden by capping the amount that can be levied against OMMP growers for administrative costs and suspending this cost for the first three years to give the OHA and OLCC more time to more accurately assess the administrative costs associated with tracking OMMP growers before adding it to the costs of application.

The cost for a patient to get a card has been climbing steadily for the past six years and the burden of entry into the METRC tracking system will put on these patients and their growers will be overwhelming. I am not sure everyone realizes just how fast or how much these costs have increased.

I have provided these slides for you review. I hope you will find them helpful in understanding the huge burden SB 1057 places on patients.

I urge the committee to consider this amendment and adopt it under SB 56.

Thank you.