

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a senior female citizen age 76. I have a very advanced case of glaucoma and because of that am blind in my left eye. I also have osteoporosis and have broken my back, left leg in 8 places and most recently my right hip. I was one of the first Oregon citizens to obtain my medical marijuana card when the program was first implemented. My physician recommended its use as well as other medications to keep the eye pressure under control and signed my paperwork every year for the card. At the time, we owned our own home and I was able to grow my own medicine. /the fee was 100.00 for renewal and the cost of an office visit to my physician was mostly covered by insurance. Because I owned my home I was able to consume there. Now things have changed drastically and the Oregon Legislature and OLCC has made it impossible for me to use the medicine I need to prevent blindness - complete blindness. That is the end result of glaucoma if the pressure is not controlled. At the present time, it is impossible to purchase or consume.

I no longer own my home and now live in section 8 apartment. The federal government does not allow any cannabis consumption of any kind on the premises. I surely cannot grow plants. Additionally, my physician retired and no physician with any of the medical groups will sign for license renewal they are afraid - literally. My option would be to go to a doctor willing to sign NOT covered under my medicare plan and I would have to pay office visit fee of 150-200.00 which I cannot afford. There are 0 discounts for seniors, you have now raised the renewal fee to \$200 annually and I have to pay retail at a dispensary. Even if that were an affordable option I have no place to consume. In other words, the Oregon Legislature and OLCC have effectively shut me out of the medical program and assured me of losing the sight in my right eye as well as the left so I hope you are all happy now. Oregon is raking in mega bucks while those of us in need, as usual, continue to suffer because we are poor. Thanks Oregon - did anyone ever consider how this would affect patients or just your pocketbooks? I think we all know the answer.

A place to gather and consume would be so welcome yet even though Portland has a bar on every corner we cannabis users are left out just like always so for all intents and purposes it may as well still be illegal because there are many others like me who suffer daily because of your rules. Please pass something approving public consumption and stop punishing us. Thank you I hope someone actually reads this.

Changing How We Live,

Madeline Martinez
NORML Board of Directors
NORML Women's Alliance-Chair
Oregon NORML-Executive Director
World Famous Cannabis Cafe- Owner & Founder