



May 21, 2019

The Honorable Representative Williamson, Chair
House Judiciary Committee, Members

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 420-A3 and SB 975-A3

Dear Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of SB 420-A3 and SB 975-A3.

SB 420-A3 seeks to establish an expedited expungement process to set aside marijuana convictions and streamlines the existing set aside process by removing the fees, background check, and fingerprint requirements.

SB 975-A3 is a companion bill to SB 420 that creates an expedited process for old marijuana offenses to be reduced from their previous offense level to what they would be under the current law.

Both of these bills are pieces of legislation meant to address the changes in marijuana laws over the course of the last decade—since 2009, the legislature and the people have reduced criminal penalties associated with marijuana conviction. These bills seek to repair the harm done to Oregonians who have been criminalized due to the failed war on drugs and to unburden them from the collateral consequences associated with criminal convictions. These bills remove the barriers currently in place and make this process more accessible to Oregonians.

These bills move Oregon towards justice, and OCDLA strongly urges your support to both bills. Thank you for your consideration.

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OCDLA

About OCDLA

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) is a private, non-partisan, non-profit bar association of attorneys who represent juveniles and adults in delinquency, dependency, criminal prosecutions, appeals, civil commitment, and post-conviction relief proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association serves the defense and juvenile law communities through continuing legal education, public education, networking, and legislative action.

OCDLA promotes legislation beneficial to the criminal and juvenile justice systems that protects the constitutional and statutory rights of those accused of crime or otherwise involved in delinquency and dependency systems as well as to the lawyers and service providers who do this difficult work. We also advocate against issues that would harm our goals of reform within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

For questions or comments contact:

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