

Testimony Against HB 4088 (Directs Oregon Liquor Control Commission to establish Cannabis Social Equity Program to provide discounted recreational marijuana licensure fees and other support to program participants.)

I support enacting legislation to address social equity issues related to harms done to individuals, families, and communities impacted by the racist and culturally biased drug (especially marijuana) laws, but I oppose HB 4088.

I oppose any cannabis social equity program that omits medical cannabis patients within the proposed framework.

A bill that omits medical cannabis patients from a social equity program ignores those painful, stigmatizing and limiting social inequities that medical cannabis patients routinely encounter when dealing with basic life issues in access to healthcare, housing, employment and the justice system.

I am including two exhibits, one that is an annotated bibliography on medical marijuana and stigma and one is a small collection of related articles on the subject. These exhibits support my assertion that medical cannabis patients should be considered as systematic, marginalized victims of cannabis bigotry and stigma; and hence, medical cannabis patients should be included in any social equity measures consequent to drug policy reform.

I trust you will sincerely consider my suggested changes to any proposed cannabis social equity program, or oppose any measure that ignores these important contributors who have suffered serious social consequences and helped pioneer legal regulated cannabis in Oregon.

Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth Porter, MSSM – Eugene, submitted 1/31/2020