

March 10, 2021

To: The Senate Committee on Health Care.
From: Anthony Taylor, Leg. Dir.
Compassionate Oregon

Testimony in support of SB 307

Good afternoon Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Knopp members of the committee. My name is Anthony Taylor, I am legislative Director for Compassionate Oregon and offer testimony in support of this SB 307.

Veterans have always been an important part of Compassionate Oregon's commitment to patient advocacy. Veterans are met with same circumstances many Oregonians face when applying for registration with the OMMP program. Providers are allowed to have a conversation with their patients but not allowed to sign any authorization forms for registration with the program.

Compassionate Oregon's very first success in this building in 2013, was adding PTSD to the list of qualifying conditions for medical cannabis under SB 281, before this very committee. Adding this qualifying condition has been a tremendous help for our veterans. We were also successful in reducing card fees for veterans to \$20. After taking effect the number of patients qualifying under this condition is now the third largest category of those qualifying to use cannabis making up 15% of all cards issued serving over 3,000 cardholders, the majority of whom are veterans.

As a veteran myself I look forward to any benefits we can extend to veteran, Michael Krawitz Exec. Dir. Of Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access and a member of our advisory board has been instrumental in moving the Veteran's Administration to the point where the use of cannabis will not affect a veterans benefits or the management of other medications.

Madame Chair, Cannabis provides an important lifeline for veterans and others suffering from post-traumatic stress whether veteran, first responders, or survivors of other traumatic life-altering events including recovering from Traumatic Brain Injuries and anything we can do to ease their journey will be helpful and very much appreciated. Compassionate Oregon continues to work for veterans including a project we just took on this year to explore the development of a records review board for veterans to facilitate the application process without having to go outside the VA to the cannabis clinics with their associated costs being a barrier to access to the program.

We urge the committee to consider moving SB 307 forward.

Thank you, happy to answer any questions.

Anthony Taylor,
Compassionate Oregon
971.241.2707