

I hereby submit my support for HB 3112, or Cannabis Equity Act.

With help from diverse voices, the cannabis industry can and will square the benefits of legalization with the consequences of historical criminalization. Oregon's Cannabis Equity Act is the highest and best use of the legislative process as a means of addressing the aftermath of marijuana prosecutions against the backdrop of a burgeoning billion-dollar legal cannabis industry. The bill is timely and necessary. Numerous state and local governments are right now grappling with the challenge of how (not if) to regulate cannabis programs while legislating equity into their programs. The Cannabis Equity Act responds to this legal and cultural moment for Oregon's cannabis industry, and is critical to course-correct a nascent industry while embracing social and economic justice.

The language of the Cannabis Equity Act addresses a compelling government interest like no other in the history of economic and health regulations. As demonstrated during the COVID 19 pandemic, cannabis medicine was deemed essential. The economic benefits to this industry are also undeniable. With such a unique moment at hand, the Cannabis Equity Act seeks to redress the harms done by systemic inequities that are abundantly evident. By particularizing a need for greater inclusion within the industry, the Cannabis Equity Act is a crucial piece of social justice legislation that strikes the appropriate balance of addressing documented discrimination against communities of color while promoting diversity and inclusion within the industry. It is a adequately and narrowly tailored to do just that.