

March 15, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care
Senator Deb Patterson, Chair
Senator Tim Knopp, Vice-Chair
Senator Lee Beyer, Member
Senator Dallas Heard, Member
Senator James Manning Jr.

RE: Testimony in **Support of SB 758** – Expanding Healthcare Providers who can Recommend Medical Marijuana, emphasis on Minors in the OMMP

Dear Legislators,

First, I would like to thank each of you for your dedication of service to Oregonians and especially the importance of healthcare inclusive of medical marijuana.

I am a mother of a child with Autism. After years of multiple forms of therapy and trying Guanfacine to no positive outcome we looked at medical cannabis. We discussed this with his pediatrician Dr. Douglas Hamill of Kaiser, who had been with our son since birth. At about age 8 his pediatrician signed the recommendation for my son to register with OMMP and use medical cannabis. This was an extraordinary time for my son. He showed immediate and great success. The effects of medical cannabis use allowed him to explore more with his diet where he normally has an extreme sensitivity. Medical cannabis use also positively impacted his bowel movements, another sensitivity found in those living with ASD. He began to look into people's eyes and made further progress with his speech. He appeared to be heading in a superior direction.

I was then diagnosed with Breast Cancer. During that time, we missed his last OMMP renewal, his pediatrician he had since birth had retired and we have been searching for a care provider who is willing to recommend this medicine ever since. Nothing will capture these obstacles better than this video, please go to this link:

<https://vimeo.com/521071381>

Password is: story

Please accept my support in passing Senate Bill 758 in an effort to expand healthcare providers who can recommend medical use of cannabis. We can do better in Oregon and having inclusion, especially Naturopath, Chiropractic, Physician Assistances, Nurse Practitioners, Dentists, Optometrists, most importantly APRN's. Any Oregon licensed practitioner who has the authority to prescribe an FDA drug should have this ability. Let's be inclusive!

Sincerely,
Sarah Bennett
44-year old Oregonian since birth & mother of 3 Oregonians