

To: Senate Committee On Health Care
Re: SB 758

March 17, 2021

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 758. I have been an Emergency Physician in Oregon for more than 38 years, and now as a physician who provides consultation services to patients about the medical use of Cannabis and cannabinoid products, I am aware that the Oregon medical cannabis program is in need of updating and revision. This bill does a great deal of good in supporting the medical program overall. I am also encouraged by several provisions, including the expansion of the scope of medical providers who would be allowed to sign the forms to qualify their patients for the medical use of cannabis. While the language for conditions considered to be qualifying conditions has been fairly inclusive, the expansion of the scope of qualifying conditions is a great step, as there are many conditions that may benefit from the use of cannabis that may not previously have been on that list. This should allow trained clinicians to make the judgement for the use of cannabis by their patients without the interference of legal language limiting that scope of practice. It also helps clarify rules regarding the authorization of the use of cannabis products by pediatric patients, who absolutely should be included in the scope of qualifying conditions and access to cannabis. Cannabis should be treated just like any other medicinal product, weighing the risks and benefits for our patients, without additional worries about the legality or rule making which has been based on years of vilification of the plant. Steps to improve security for attending providers should improve the education of providers, and expand the number of medical providers willing to evaluate and manage their patients without institutional barriers to their participation.

Summarily, I encourage you to pass SB 758 . Thank you for your time and consideration.

David G Knox, MD
Oregon Attending Physician