

Chair Warner and Committee Members

I am a lawyer in practice for 37 years this month. For the past 25 years, I have also been a cannabis law reform advocate. I helped write the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act and the Adult use initiative. I've participated in the legislative process each session since 1999. I live and work in inner NE Portland, in Rep. Sanchez and Sen. Frederick's district.

I do not oppose this bill but I am concerned about the process that brought it before you along with 3 other specific concerns about the bill as currently drafted.

The legislative history of this bill is that initially it proposed creation of a committee and then at the work session the bill was gutted and stuffed with this amendment. There was neither notice nor an opportunity to be heard concerning the changes.

These are my concerns:

The first concern is that the equates cannabis psychoactivity with intoxication. While it can be impairing, the effects of cannabis are not intoxicating.

More significantly, the proposed Task force ought to include a person looking out for consumer interests and it does not.

Lastly, the prohibition from obtaining a hemp license if one has been convicted in the last 10 years of a felony, including a cannabis crime is of great concern. This is both out of sync with the 2 year limitation for cannabis prior convictions in the OLCC licensing application statutes, and will have a disproportionate impact on the BIPOC community as these folks were significantly more likely to be arrested and prosecuted during cannabis prohibition in our state.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my concerns and best wishes,

Leland R. Berger, OSB #830201

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