

Submitter: Adrienne Rae

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2505

This is very simple: increasing taxes on cannabis products will hurt Oregon's vulnerable patients and small business owners.

Oregon's cannabis industry is in the worst shape it has ever been... without exaggeration. Small family owned businesses are struggling to maintain their livelihoods, make payroll, and keep the family farms and homes in their own names. Many businesses have already shuttered due to crippling taxes, volatile market forces, and heavy regulation. We need to SUPPORT our local economies, not bleed them entirely dry.

When cannabis businesses suffer, their losses are passed onto the end consumer. In this case, the consumers are patients, with genuine medical needs.

Oregon's Medical Marijuana Program is failing due to the commercial forces in the adult-use market. OMMP card holder numbers have steadily declined since 2017, and patients have been forced to buy medical products in the OLCC system. Our most vulnerable and disabled patients have lost access to the most effective cannabis treatments, and they are consistently forced to pay more money (in the adult-use market). HB2505 will force patients to pay EVEN MORE. This will increase health disparities, unfairly targeting the most economically disadvantaged citizens in our state.

Increasing sales tax on cannabis products will only fuel the raging fire in Oregon's cannabis industry. Voting in favor of HB2505 will directly harm Oregon's most vulnerable people. DO NOT support HB2505.