

Submitter: Anthony Taylor  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2931

March 15, 2023

HB 2931 Testimony in Support  
Anthony Taylor, Chair, Oregon Cannabis Commission

Good morning, Chair Kropf, Vice chair Anderson and Whallan

For the record my name is Anthony Taylor. I am the “OMMP patient” on the Oregon Cannabis Commission and currently serve as its chair. The OCC was established in 2017 as an advisory body to the OLCC and the OHA. Thank you for allowing me to provide support for HB 2931 today. The Oregon Cannabis Commission is pleased that an issue long at the top of our list of recommendations for medical cannabis reform has come before the Legislature.

I have provided for the Committee in my written testimony, a letter sent by the Oregon Cannabis Commission, in August of last year to the relevant stakeholders at the time regarding the creation of a state lab of record to provide oversight for the cannabis testing sector.

The OCC has cited the need for an independent state reference lab since the Commission's first days in 2018 and as our third recommendation brought forth in our February 2019 report to the Legislature. The Commission felt and as the letter provided emphasizes, the purpose of a lab of record is to focus on public health and safety and to “objectively audit and investigate private laboratories and randomly test cannabis products to ensure testing accuracy, consistency and cannabis product integrity on a regular basis.”

As this letter states, the concept of a state reference lab began to gain support and in 2021, the Commission's Research and Leadership Subcommittee revisited the issue to provide “a clearer picture and guidance for agencies and stakeholders to consider in developing a state lab of record for cannabis and hemp testing and how it might best serve the needs of the medical cannabis community, the cannabis research sector, state policy makers and the cannabis industry overall.”

The Commission does not view this lab as an enforcement tool per se but rather proposes that a state lab is essential to “increase public confidence in cannabis and hemp products” and “increase public health and safety in ensuring these products meet the standards in testing, ... expected by the public and that those labs serving

the public are held to those standards.”

A state reference lab will also address long-held concerns such as lab shopping for higher potency numbers, lack of public access to test results and reliable product information raised by the Commission and the OLCC, and most recently, the Task Force on Cannabis Derived Intoxicants and the Governor’s office.

As HB 2931 begins to take shape, we encourage the Committee to carefully consider the thoughtful work the Commission put forth. For instance,

A lab of reference should appropriately serve “as the steward of an unbiased library of information on cannabis in Oregon and serve as the public facing repository of cannabis data for research purposes and in developing public policy.”

The Commission is also concerned with access to testing services for qualifying OMMP cardholders and recommends that a state reference lab should also “facilitate the creation of a program for those Oregonians who may be producing their own flower and other cannabinoid products for personal use and may need access to this service at significantly reduced costs” particularly for low-income OMMP cardholders.

Before I close, I would like to thank Dr. Adie Rae, Ph.D, Vice Chair of the Commission and Chair of the Research Leadership Subcommittee for their work on this issue and to encourage members of this Committee to work closely with the Research Subcommittee as a resource as this body moves forward with this long-awaited legislation.

In closing, the Oregon Cannabis Commission supports HB 2931 and hopes that the concerns brought forward by the Commission will be wholly considered and that this body creates a state reference lab that will serve all Oregonians who use cannabis, and which has wide support from state agencies, industry, and