

Submitter: Michael Rochlin
On Behalf Of: American Cannabis Nurses Association
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3214

Subject: Support for House Bill 3214: Advancing Cannabis Use in Palliative and End-of-Life Care

Dear Senator/Representative,

I am Michael Rochlin, RN, a member of the American Cannabis Nurses Association (ACNA), a non-profit organization of nurses with specialized expertise in cannabinoid therapeutics. The ACNA is recognized by the American Nurses Association, which includes the Oregon Nurses Association chapter.

I am reaching out to inform you of the upcoming cannabis-related legislation being proposed by Compassionate Oregon, a nonprofit organization working with the Oregon legislature. This proposed legislation seeks to expand access to cannabis for elderly patients in palliative, hospice, and residential care settings in Oregon.

As a long-time leader in the field of medicinal cannabis, Oregon is uniquely positioned to adopt a model that allows registered cannabis patients to designate hospice and palliative care organizations as caregivers, facilitating cannabis use when necessary. House Bill 3214 will expand upon this framework by offering additional guidance to ensure the safe and effective use of cannabis in these settings. Specifically, the bill will establish written policies and procedures for the administration, dosing, and handling of cannabis, along with staff training in cannabis pharmacology, dosing, delivery modalities, and identifying potential contraindications. Furthermore, the bill will provide vital protections for nurses, safeguarding them from civil penalties or disciplinary action for discussing the benefits and risks of cannabis with patients.

Enclosed, you will find a one-page summary of the bill's current provisions and proposed changes, including the designation of hospice, palliative, and comfort care as a qualifying debilitating condition. For further details, please refer to the bill's full text here. Additionally, please see the accompanying Cannabis in Hospice Infogram for further context.

In my professional experience, we have witnessed patients facing significant challenges in accessing cannabis as a therapeutic option. Despite growing evidence supporting its efficacy, many patients encounter resistance from healthcare providers who are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with cannabis as a treatment. This hesitance perpetuates stigma and misinformation, ultimately leaving patients underserved. Compounding these challenges is the ongoing federal prohibition of cannabis, which further limits patient access to potentially life-saving treatments.

The American Cannabis Nurses Association strongly supports House Bill 3214 and similar legislation to expand cannabis access for patients in palliative, hospice, and residential care settings in Oregon. As a trusted source of medical cannabis nursing

expertise, ACNA is committed to providing legislative leaders with evidence-based insights to ensure that policies promote both patient safety and health equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Michael Rochlin, RN, Member, American Cannabis Nurses Association