

Submitter: Rachel Knox
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3214

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

I am Dr. Rachel Knox, endocannabinologist, cannabinoid medicine specialist, and past chair (and first Attending Physician) of the Oregon Cannabis Commission. I'm writing in support of HB3214, and want to speak to the matters of educational requirements for staff and dosing considerations.

As a clinician with thousands of hours guiding cannabis therapeutics, I want to emphasize the critical nature of proper staff education. Many patients entering hospice or palliative care settings are already using cannabis medicinally, sometimes at doses between 500-1000mg daily. Staff must understand how to properly continue, adjust, or integrate these treatments.

This is why the educational component of HB3214 is essential for patient safety. Staff need training on:

- # Cannabis pharmacology: Understanding how cannabinoids work at different doses and through different delivery methods
- # Drug interactions: Recognizing potential contraindications with conventional medications
- # Dosing protocols: Managing patients with varying tolerance during transitions of care

Fortunately, such education is well within reach as several excellent educational resources already exist:

ACHEM (the Association for Cannabis Health Equity & Medicine) offers a highly-rated 5-hour CME course on Foundations of Cannabinoid Medicine and hosts Cannabis Grand Rounds webinars for up-to-date clinical information. Goldstein Wellness, founded by cannabis medicine expert Dr. Bonni Goldstein, MD, provides free educational modules and community forums for licensed physicians on clinical applications and dosing of cannabis. And the Society of Cannabis Clinicians and the International Association for Cannabinoid Medicines are just two of many medical associations related to cannabis that offer comprehensive educational resources and professional development.

Dosing for cannabis is as pragmatic as is dosing for other drugs. With proper

foundational and continuing education, Oregon's hospice and palliative care staff will feel just as confident caring for patients with cannabis.

This bill acknowledges that medical cannabis is a reality for many patients, especially those with debilitating conditions requiring palliative or hospice care. Ensuring staff have access to proper education will improve patient outcomes and reduce potential adverse events.