



# MEDICAL CANNABIS RESOURCE CENTER

## **JOIN the CAMPAIGN!** **Medical Cannabis for PTSD** **for Veterans, Police,** **Firefighters and Other** **American Citizens**

**ALERT! Effort to Add PTSD to the OMMP is in Denial and Needs Your Help. Contact DHS department officials with your Testimony / Discussion Points** as to How The Process was Biased and How Cannabis (Marijuana) is, indeed, safe and effective medicine.

**We are sad to report that a new petition to add a series of mental health conditions - including PTSD - to the list of debilitating medical conditions is going to be denied.** Edward Glick, activist, petitioned the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program to add Clinical Depression, Depressive Symptoms, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Severe Anxiety, Agitation and Insomnia to Those Diseases and Conditions Which Qualify as 'Debilitating Medical Conditions' under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act.

**Written patient testimony was allowed, gathered and submitted - apparently all to no avail.** Of note, 4 members voted to oppose all conditions, including Dr. Higginson, OMMP Director who set up the Panel. Some wonder if it was even looked at before rejection.

### **What To Do?**

**At this point we are writing to the State Health Officer and DHS Director in an effort to get them to over-ride the Panels recommendation to deny.**

▶ **Get your testimony / talking-points to DHS officials. See below for Contact info, sample letter.**

▶ **Tell everybody you know.** Make copies of this document and pass around all over the place.

▶ **If you're not able to contact DHS officials yourself, PLEASE feel free to contact us and we'll help get it down and to them.** Call **503.363-4588** (in the Salem area) or visit -

[http://mercycenters.org/action/camp\\_PTSD.html](http://mercycenters.org/action/camp_PTSD.html)

### **- DHS Officials Contact Info -**

#### **Mel Kohn, MD - State Health Officer:**

800 NE Oregon St, Ste 930  
Portland OR 97232  
Phone: 971-673-1300  
[Melvin.a.kohn@state.or.us](mailto:Melvin.a.kohn@state.or.us)

#### **Dr. Bruce Goldberg, MD - Director:**

Oregon Department of Human Services  
500 Summer St. NE 4th floor  
Salem, OR 97301  
Voice: 503-947-5110  
TTY: 503-947-5080  
Fax: 503-378-2897  
[Bruce.goldberg@dhs.state.or.us](mailto:Bruce.goldberg@dhs.state.or.us)



## Your voice is important!

**Oregon DHS decision pending on inclusion of mood symptoms and diseases onto OMMP's list of qualifying conditions.** The Director of the Oregon Dept. of Human Services, Bruce Goldberg MD, and the State Health Officer, Mel Kohn, MD will be deciding soon about whether or not to include Depression, Depressive symptoms, agitation, insomnia anxiety and PTSD onto the list of qualifying conditions covered under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act. The "expert" panel convened by the DHS voted 4 to 3 against allowing any of the conditions onto the list. The opposing members were: Chemical Dependency counselor Diane Lia, Dr. Tom Dodson of the Oregon Medical Association, Marian Fireman of the Oregon Psychiatric Association and Dr. Grant Higginson, OMMP Director. **The process of evaluation and the panel member selection was marred by significant issues which have virtually guaranteed rejection of conditions, in spite of a hundred patient comments, numerous expert testimonies and a thousand pages of supporting documentation submitted by the petitioner.**

**Without patient feedback it is virtually certain that all conditions will be rejected. This will mean that thousands of Oregonians who use cannabis to combat mood symptoms, diseases or the intolerable effects of pharmaceuticals, will remain in danger of arrest, prosecution, civil asset forfeiture, child protective service investigations, employment discrimination, medical discrimination, jail and forced drug treatment. PLEASE call, write or e-mail the State Health Officer and the Director of DHS today!** It is urgent that patients speak up, and tell Drs. Goldberg and Kohn that you use cannabis to safely and effectively treat your conditions, know someone who does, and that all patients deserve to use any medication that benefits them free of fear of prosecution. The DHS should not reject patients. Ask them to approve all conditions!

## Stand Up, Speak Out! Your Opinion Counts! Sample letter to DHS Officials -

Ed Glick  
Corvallis, OR

Dr. Kohn,  
State health Officer

Dear Dr. Kohn,

Thank you for your words of openmindedness and consideration of this matter. In my 25 years as a nurse and patient advocate I have nearly always seen cannabis patients lose whenever governmental or medical agencies attempt to evaluate their unique medical or legal issues.

The OMMA was passed by voters, not legislators, because of the unwillingness of legislators to protect vulnerable Oregonians. Oregonians expressed the desire that anyone who suffers from a debilitating condition deserves the protections of lawful use. I believe I demonstrated in my submissions that patients are using cannabis as an effective and relatively safe remedy for the conditions I proposed adding.

With no disrespect to you, the likelihood is that DHS is heading towards a complete rejection of all proposed conditions. Nearly the same justifications in 2000 will be used this time as well in spite of a vast increase in patient experience and clinical research.

Thus, I have little faith that your decision will reflect the needs of patients, rather, I suspect that you are pressured by physician groups, legislators and law enforcement officials who have consistently remained hostile to the needs of cannabis patients. Outright rejection of mental health conditions will cause direct harm to patients and push them further out of a medical system that has been distant and judgemental towards them. I wish my perception was misplaced, and I truly hope to be proven wrong.

Thank you,  
ED Glick,  
Petitioner