

Your voice is important! Oregon DHS decision pending on inclusion of mood symptoms and diseases onto OMMMP'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, OMMMP 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! **For more info, Call 503.363-4588** (in the Salem area) or visit -

http://mercycenters.org/action/camp_PTSD.html

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Stand Up, Speak Out! Your Opinion Counts!

Sample letter to DHS Officials -

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
Corvallis, OR

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