

# THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

## ALERT ! Stop HB2939

**What is HB2939?** House Bill 2939 is a legislative item concerning medical cannabis that is currently making it's way through the Oregon state political process. It was introduced / sponsored by Representative Kruse at the request of the Narcotics Enforcement Association (a.k.a, the "police") and the OMMP office - the Oregon medical Marijuana Program, part of the Oregon Health Dept.

Contact all committee members and tell them that -this is an attack on peoples' health and lives. Inform them they must terminate this legislation and to do otherwise would be an outrageous insult to the 4700 registrants.

HB2939 has passed the house, is in the Senate and is going to Senator Morrisette's Health Policy Committee consisting of Senator Bill Morrisette, Chair; Senator Bill Fisher, Vice-Chair; Senator John Minnis; Senator Frank Shields; Senator Charles Starr; and Senator Vicki Walker. Contact information is at: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/senate/senateset.htm>. In theory, this bill will only get a hearing if the chair wishes. We suggest you carefully read HB 2939 if you have not done so [http://pub.das.state.or.us/LEG\\_BILLS/PDFs/AEHB2939.pdf](http://pub.das.state.or.us/LEG_BILLS/PDFs/AEHB2939.pdf). Most OMMA supporters suggest we contact Senator Morrisette and ask him to stop this bill.

If we wish to stop HB 2939 ASAP, we not only need to contact the Senators (particularly Senator Morrisette) but we also need to lobby any of the bills sponsors and supporters.

We have attached some comments regarding these changes to OMMA (the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act), and suggest that you read the complete text of the bill and take action. Some observers see it as composed of some very bad things, a few ugly things and a few "deck chair arranging" items. In the opinions of learned insiders, the very bad things and some of the ugly things come from "the cops" and everything else is from the manager of the OMMP. It has been recommended that the best thing is to just get rid of it and address any legitimate concerns through other means.

This bill seems designed to limit access to Medical Marijuana. Further, after a even a quick reading it is clear this bill is going to wreak havoc on many in the program without - (1) accounting for the cost -or- (2) having a good reason.

PLEASE, please, if you have been helped by the OMMA program, or you just want to fight government waste, then do your share to help against this unwarranted attack on the program. Ask others to help. Try to get as many supporters to call, write and fax as possible. Keep your fingers crossed this won't get passed - but not until after you click, click ... dial, dial.

Here are some of the **changes** that are being planned and a few thoughts on them. Many thanks to the watchdogs keeping an eye on the legislature. Visit Oregon NORML's Legislative web page at: [www.ornorml.org](http://www.ornorml.org) for more analysis and talking points.

**1. Consider the Source.** A proposed requirement for "patient education classes". This boils down to a statement to be signed by the patient (and caregivers?) that they have read & understand the legal requirements for the medical use of marijuana.

**Comments:** Ugly. Sounds like another excuse for authority to say who is qualified and can be in the program (and free of hassle by said authority). Also, more expenses for the Program, as it must supply written materials (and keep them updated) for the patients in excess of what they already send out. Further, who is the source? We want the program to work, "they" want to shut it down. The policy of the police is that cannabis has no medical value and the OHD remains willfully ignorant of needs of the people and the purpose of the program. Can we separate the medical & health-care aspects from prison-industry oriented solutions and bureaucratic empire building? If not, then let's not do this. Education can't hurt, but make it meaningful by allowing input from sources not so blatantly opposed and full of misinformation.

**2. Think about Patient Rights.** Section 2, 475.309 (5) calls for the notification of one physician of another physician's determination regarding a patient, without the willing consent of the patient.

**Comments:** Bad. This is what happens to your rights under the influence of the drug war. This is contrary to the patient - physician confidentiality, neutrality and privacy preached about by the Program. Further, it may violate other state statutes concerning disclosure of a person's private medical records. And what is the justification for doing it to this select group? Just say no.

**3. Don't waste resources continuously punishing Felons.** Section 2, 475.309 (6) & (8) calls for the denial of an application if person has drug sales conviction, prevents further application permanently, and Section 3, 475.316 (2)(b) allows permanent revocation of an existing registry card for a drug sales conviction.

**Comments:** Bad and Ugly. This is unconstitutional, a case of double jeopardy, cruel & unusual punishment and a whole mess of other things. Only a third-rate dictatorship would deprive a person of medicine, in some cases the only one that works, condemning them to literally rot to death - and do it for political purposes dressed as a "health & safety emergency". Further, to deny a Caregiver with the expertise of growing medical quality cannabis to a needy patient merely on this basis is likewise cruel and unnecessary.

**4. No real need to make it harder on the doctors & patients.** Section 2, 475.309 (10)(a)(B)(i) calls for a physician to provide even more documentation than before and tries to make them commit even further by forcing them (**continued next page**)

(continued from previous page) to state, "... and that the medical use of marijuana may continue to mitigate the symptoms or effects ..."

**Comments:** This is still problematic, in that doctors still are reluctant to put themselves on the firing line. The current wording stating that the patient continues to have a qualifying condition should still be sufficient for the Program.

**5. Consider the Tactics.** Very Bad and Ugly. Added section, #5, states, "This 2003 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2003 Act takes effect on its passage."

**Comments:** Excuse us, but what "peace, health, or safety emergency" ... ? This smacks of more Reefer Madness scare tactics and smells like someone is trying to get something nasty passed through in a hurry before the people can be made aware of it.

In short, we feel the changes represented by this bill will do little more than add sick pot-heads to the "justice" system pool at the expense of other programs, like those for schools. These changes will NOT discourage abuse or reduce crime. They WILL increase investigations, prosecutions, imprisonments and paroles – and related harm & expense - of people who are no harm to society to begin with.

**“How can I have input?”** HB 2939 has passed the House floor and has gone the Senate for a basic repeat of the whole show - hearing, work session and floor vote. The next most likely chance for new citizen input to be heard in person would be a Senate committee hearing. BUT! Having said that, just because there may be no further hearings on HB2939 in the House -or- Senate, there is NO limit on the amount of contact to be made to any legislator on this matter.

We should encourage all representatives to, at least, think of the resulting costs of their decision. Contact your representative and/or the Health and Human Services Committee at the Capitol Bldg, Salem, Oregon. Be sure to READ the TEXT and, we suggest, confine your comments to the changes contained in this bill, for maximum effectiveness and consideration.

**If you call, you can leave a short message, such as, "My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling to ask Sen. \_\_\_\_\_ to NOT support HB-2939. My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you."**

Short and sweet, if they want reasons they will call you back. Doubtful that you'll hear from them. This is effective because someone has to at least write down your phone number. They need to know that there are many people who care about the OMMA Program and they need to know NOW!

**Contact Tip:** There are persons who will never agree with us and those that don't care. If they wish to be jerks and ignore our patients then we will not have to point out that they are indeed being jerks, it will be obvious. The only thing you can

do, if they vote wrong, is thank them for their consideration of our concerns, express sorrow that they could not see the reality of the issue and THEN promise to do what you can to un-elect them. While a good item to note, NOT a good lead in. It does ok as an exit line though.

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To find out the contact info for YOUR legislators go to: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/findset.htm> All you have to do is type in your address and you'll get it all. Here is how you figure out who is on which committee. Go to: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/index.html>, click on Committees at the top, click on Senate Committee Assignments by Committee.

Here is how you figure out who is your Representative and/or Senator. Go to and get contact info from the lists under the House and Senate buttons. Click on House (or Senate), click on Representative (or Senator) Information and then click on Alphabetical Listing of State Representatives. Each Rep. clicked on will lead you to the stuff you need. Perhaps you can bookmark this main site to facilitate using the info on it.

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**This information provided by the Mercy Center of Salem (MCRC - Medical Cannabis Resource Center).  
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