

To: members of the oregon state senate

FROM: THE OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE(OACP), OREGON STATE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION(OSSA), OREGON STATE POLICE(OSP), AND OREGON DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S ASSOCIATION (ODDA)

date: JULY 11, 2005

re: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1085

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, Oregon State Police and the Oregon District Attorney's Association, please accept this letter of support for SB 1085. This legislation is the product of extensive discussions involving members of the Oregon Senate, representatives of the law enforcement profession, advocates of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program and the Department of Human Services. The provisions of SB 1085 are designed to carefully balance the needs of patients within the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program with the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies to interdict illegal drug activity. Both of these interests are well served by the provisions of SB 1085 because the legislation creates clarity around a number of confusing issues within the program.

This bill will provide a framework that creates very clear and bright lines for both law enforcement and the cardholders to operate within.

In the past, issues with the affirmative defense, carrying of registration cards, twenty-four hour notification, authorized amounts of plants/usable marijuana and other unclear issues have caused both procedural and criminal problems for both sides.

The changes to the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program will allow officers . to make a determination if a person is out of compliance based on the rules of the program not on the interpretation of the county that they are working within. It will assure that cardholders who possess marijuana outside their residence or grow site location will have the card in their possession. This will allow officers to readily identify those who have criminal law exemption coverage and will assure that those who are attempting to use the program as a means of cover for their illegal activities will suffer repercussions for doing so. SB 1085 will also afford officers the ability to check a cardholder's status on a twenty-four hour basis once this capability-is in place. Each of these is a major improvement to the current rules the program operates within.

This change also provides for the cardholder as well and assures that these changes will not impact a patient's ability to obtain the amounts that have been determined for their program.

We urge you to support SB 1085!