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Karen MacLean, Rules Coordinator  
Board of Pharmacy  
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 150  
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Rescheduling of Cannabis  
Ms. MacLean,

Dear BoP,

Please accept this as my testimony regarding the rescheduling of Cannabis.

My name is Kenneth Gregory Byers, I am a 58 year old "retired" Master Automobile Technician. I have been an OMMA Patient since 2003, I suffer from Degenerative Joint Disease and Irritable Bowel Syndrome. I am also recently diagnosed as being diabetic and having Prostate Cancer. I suffer from nausea, nerve, muscle and bone pain, intestinal and muscle spasms that are debilitating to the point of 100% disability per the Social Security Administration. Since these conditions started showing their ugly faces I have been unable to work in my chosen field since 2000 and have been entirely unemployable since 2004, with the SSA finally awarding me SSDI in 2007.

The PhARMA drugs prescribed to me prior to 2003 were detrimental to my health causing weight gain and increased problems with my bowels. My MD was willing to allow me MMJ use to see if it helped my symptoms. I lost weight and have a much easier time with my bowels and am distracted from my joint pain enough to not need narcotic and NSAID drugs.

The pressure on MDs and DOs, as they can only refer a person to cannabis due to it's placement in Schedule I, would be relieved if Cannabis were lowered to schedule IV or V so that "real" research could be done and real medicine could be produced, unlike now where we are forced to gauge our level of treatment without clear dosing or knowing the actual levels of cannabinoids in the MMJ. The good thing about this is there is no LD50 and overdose is impossible. Taking too much is going to do nothing more than possibly cause discomfort and sleepiness not death. There is little "hangover" effect unlike alcohol or narcotic drug overdose and no risk of death.

The logic of Schedule I is to protect society from the dangers of very addictive drugs that often lead to destructive behavior. Marijuana does not lead to the use of harder drugs, does not lead to criminal behavior, does not lead to death by overdose. For me, Cannabis allows me a healthy appetite, mostly spasm-less daily life, and cuts my joint and nerve pain to acceptable levels without the debilitating confusion caused by narcotic drugs. MMJ allows me a reasonable life, please reschedule it to level 4 or 5 so I and the many thousands of suffering people in this State may more easily accommodate our diseases and disabilities and the resultant pain and discomfort caused by our conditions without the complete and utter dependence on the unreliable nature of PhARMA drugs and their very real and dangerous side effects.

Thank you for your time,  
K. Gregory Byers  
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