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Puffing away the pain legally

Oregon patients who want to use marijuana for their ailments may be taking it up sooner than people think.

The Life with Dignity Committee is going to be filing a state ballot initiative to modify the Oregon

Medical Marijuana Act passed in 1998. It is titled Oregon Medical Marijuana Act II (OMMA2).

The OMMA2 will make some much-needed changes where medical marijuana is concerned. For one, patients wouldn't have to pay the high premiums to have the OMMA card, which is currently priced at \$150. Upon the passing of the new initiative, OMMA2 patients would only have to pay \$20. Instead of patients having to go to doctors for all of their marijuana needs, patients can take care of themselves. The new initiative would allow for more people to grow and possess marijuana. Rather than doctors having to fill out prescriptions and qualify patients for medical marijuana, nurse practitioners and naturopaths could do it as well. Lastly, it would allow caregivers the ability to be compensated for assisting patients

who need medical marijuana. According to reports by KATU Channel Two News,



Say It Loud & Proud!

Salena De La Cruz
Opinion Editor

they wanted to change it because of numerous problems with the current medical marijuana law.

I am glad there are changes being made to the current bill because most people who I've heard use medical marijuana are so debilitated by their medical problems that they can't work and are therefore barely able afford to live, let alone pay \$150 to get something that helps them so much. Although, it reminds me of the whole medical industry in general - usually the medicines people need the most are the most expensive.

The people who back the initiative have to come up with 66,786 valid signatures by July 5, 2002, for it to be added to the November 2002 Oregon ballot.

I tell you what, I'll be one of the first in line to sign for this. There are people out there who can't cope without the help of the marijuana



By Jon Baggs

to lessen their pain.

Some of you may remember the article in our Jan. 23, 2002 issue called "Local doctor supports puffing for pain." Dr. Leveque is the doctor who is up against scrutiny for issuing more than 40 percent of Oregon's prescriptions for medical marijuana. Now, that may seem like

a large number, but he's trying to help people. Granted there will be those who will try to take advantage of this new initiative, but there are always a few in every group who mess it up for the others.

The way I figure it, I'd rather we make it readily available for these people instead of trying to stop

people from doing it, but my view is "smoke it up" as long as you're not driving. After all, Jesus wanted us to use all fruit- and seed-bearing plants. Who can argue with that?

To reach Salena De La Cruz e-mail wonderwoman41477@yahoo.com or drop by B-104.

Is it o.k. to use marijuana for medicinal purposes?



Lucy Pinsonault

Major: General

"Yes. I condone it. There is nothing wrong with it."



Amanda Taylor

High School Diploma

"Yes. It can be a problem in some cases, but for honest medicinal use it is good."

Photos and quotes compiled by Salena De La Cruz and Jeff Heilman



Ryan Lishka

Major: History

"Yes. Medicinal purposes keep people from suffering."



Jamie Cross

Major: Political Science

"Yes. If it is needed and if it really helps out."

How many days until Spring Break?



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