

MAMA Medical Cannabis News

May 4, 2009

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OMMP Victory- For the rest of 2009, the program remains the same.

As the 2009 Legislative session nears a close, participants in the OMMP can breathe a sigh a relief. Thanks to patient outcry and participation in the legislative process, the Oregon legislature has decided to table every measure that could have detrimentally affected the OMMP. In essence, we locked horns with two of the most powerful lobbying groups in the state- big business and law enforcement- and we won. For now.

Unfortunately, our victory may be short-lived. The legislature has decided to reconvene in February of next year and will continue the debate over SB 388. This highly controversial measure, which was submitted at the request of the Stormy Ray Cardholder's Foundation, in collaboration with law enforcement, caused such a stir in the halls of the Capitol building that its assigned committee determined that its members needed extra time to deliberate on the measure.

In addition to SB 388, we can expect to see a revised version of HB 3274 appear as early as February as well. Rep. Shaufler, the Chair of the House Business and Labor Committee, is organizing a work group to further explore this bill, which currently calls for the state to operate a medical cannabis cultivation and distribution system, and prohibits patients from cultivating their own medicine.

But for now, we deserve a chance to sit back, relax, and take pride in the fact that the OMMP has earned another year of existence, and that for now, the program remains unchanged. The best thing for us to do now is to act responsibly and respect the current laws and regulations, so that the legislature and the people of Oregon have a chance to witness why our program model is emulated throughout the nation.

Eugene Mayor Announces Medical Marijuana Awareness Week

Mayor Kitty Piercy has publicly declared the week of April 29th through May 6th as "Medical Marijuana Awareness Week" in the city of Eugene. The week's primary event was the Global Marijuana March and rally in downtown Eugene on Saturday, May 2nd, at which the mayor attended and spoke in support of medical marijuana. "This is not me leading any cause," Mayor Piercy stated to the Eugene Register-Guard. "But I'm more than willing to state my support for the legal, medical use of marijuana."

