



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director
In Support of HB 2233
House Economic Development Committee
March 13, 2019**

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹ supports HB 2233, which would create safe legal spaces for people living in or visiting Oregon to consume cannabis, as well as creating a legal framework for consumption of cannabis at temporary events.

The ACLU of Oregon has a long history of advocating for sensible drug reform, including significant involvement in the campaigns to legalize medical and then recreational cannabis. While we have made great strides to move our drug policy away from the criminal justice system and toward a public health model, there is much work to do.

We view this bill as an important step to ensure that the changes we have made in our laws operate in an equitable and fair manner. Not everyone in Oregon benefits from the new legal framework we have created around cannabis use in the same way; and there are changes we need to make to our laws to ensure equity.

More specifically, there are many people in our communities who live in public housing or rentals where cannabis possession and use is disallowed. Meanwhile, those of us who own homes are free to possess and consume cannabis freely. This creates an economic inequity, where people who can afford to purchase a home are able to benefit from legal cannabis, while poorer individuals are essentially prohibited from using a legal product. This prohibition exists because cannabis use is prohibited outside and there are currently no safe, legal indoor spaces beyond a person's residence to consume marijuana.

We believe HB 2233 is a reasonable bill that should pass. It includes many compromises, including the avoidance of interference with rules created by this legislature around indoor smoking, and allowing options for counties and cities to allow or disallow these spaces

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.

inside their jurisdiction. We believe it is a significant step in the right direction to help ensure that Oregonians have safe, legal spaces to consume cannabis.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 2233. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.