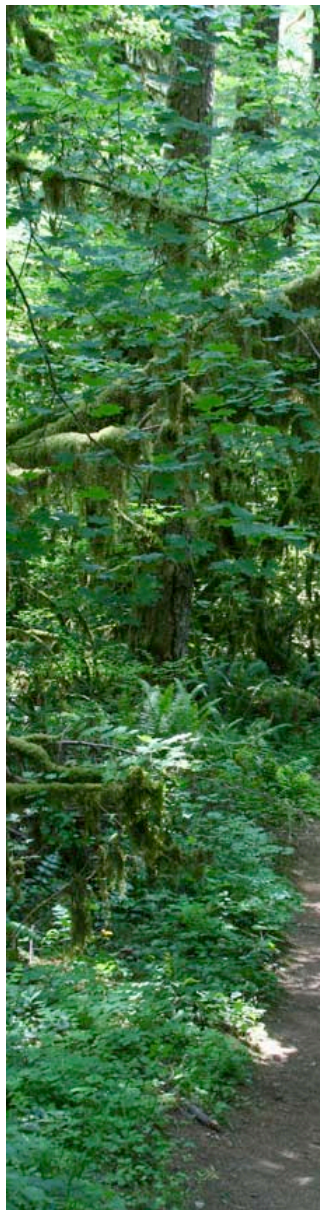


# A Message from MAMA



As I lazily camped out with my family and friends deep in the Cascade forest, I found myself reflecting on the latest developments regarding cannabis. In the '09 legislative session, while supporters of OMMP fought to keep the Program from being gutted, other interesting developments regarding cannabis occurred.

One is the passing of **SB 728**, requiring the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to reschedule cannabis. In about 9 months, the Board of Pharmacy must place marijuana in some schedule from 2 to 5, with 5 being the lowest. In Oregon cannabis is now Schedule 1, meaning it is regarded as having no medicinal use with a high possibility of abuse, causing problems to the user. We know better than that and would like to see cannabis scheduled a 3 or lower.

**SB 676** also passed, which permits production and possession of industrial hemp and trade in industrial hemp commodities and products. which will make it legal to grow industrial hemp in Oregon. Don't go planting your hemp crop now though, as many issues need to be worked out, including how the Federal Government will respond.

Another important development is that it has been reported that the Veterans Administration says positive marijuana drug screening will not void pain contracts for veterans with a doctor's recommendation. This is good

news for many veterans who find that using cannabis with their other medications helps improve their quality of life.

As you have heard from us before, Ed Glick, a retired psychiatric nurse, has petitioned Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS) to add **Clinical Depression, Depressive Symptoms, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Severe Anxiety, Agitation and Insomnia**, to the list of conditions and diseases which qualify a patient for the OMMP. The first session of the expert panel was held July 27, 2009, from 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM, at the Portland State Office Building (Room 1B). The 2nd & 3rd meetings will likely be scheduled every 2 weeks after the July 27th meeting. The public is able to attend these meetings.

The folks with I-28, the dispensary initiative, are busy collecting signatures. For petitions or to help contact their website, [www.CoalitionforPatientsRights2010.com](http://www.CoalitionforPatientsRights2010.com)

The OMMP Administration announced at the June Advisory Committee on Medical Marijuana (ACMM) meeting that they are now processing at least 2,500 applications a month and the rate is steadily climbing. There are currently over 25,000 patients registered in the Program. Yes, that's 25,000!

Smile and enjoy the rest of the summer. ~ Sandee

