**Kate Brown**
**Governor**

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Testimony on SB 445
March 25, 2015, Hearing Room B, 5 pm
Joint Committee on Implementing Measure 91

Co-Chairs Burdick and Lininger, Co-Vice Chairs Prozanski, Ferrioli and Wilson, Senators Beyer and Kruse, Representatives Buckley, Helm and Olson:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports SB 445.

The OCFW believes that great public health information at the point of sale is one of the most important services government can provide to its citizens. It reaches every individual and in clearest terms allows parents and prospective parents especially to evaluate their purchase or actions on behalf of their children's welfare.

SB 445 is such a bill. Its requirement that marijuana sellers post information on the proven risks for birth defects that marijuana poses to pregnant women is as critical to family health as it is cost effective in giving Oregon babies a healthy start.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, research studies have shown that that some babies born to women who have used marijuana during their pregnancies respond differently to visual stimuli, tremble more, and have a high-pitched cry, which could indicate problems with neurological development. While in school, children prenatally exposed to marijuana are more likely to show gaps in problem-solving skills, memory, and attention. While more research on human studies is needed, it is critical at this juncture to provide a systematic means of informing pregnant women and or those who could become pregnant of possible birth effects.

For the sake of the mother and for her unborn child, the Oregon Commission for Women urges an Aye vote on SB 445.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, Oregon Commission for Women

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