

4-30-2019 (PROPONENT) TESTIMONY FOR SB 57 – Ravi Kulasekere PhD, ND, BCHHP

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Brent and Members of the House Agriculture and Rural Development committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 57.

My name is Dr Ravi Kulasekere, a practicing board certified doctor of naturopathy and a medical physicist by training. I am writing to express my support for SB-57 and the revisions and amendments proposed therein, to the Ohio Revised Code. Industrial agricultural hemp is a plant that has numerous benefits both for improving health and as a nutritional supplement. It has a complete amino acid profile that is highly beneficial for people who are on a whole food plant-based food program. The CBD oil derived from industrial hemp has multiple uses in bringing the body back into a balanced state in people who are suffering from various chronic imbalances.

All of the products made from industrial hemp have very low to no psychoactive components that the cannabis plant derivatives contain and is extremely safe for all age groups. The only reason that we are even having this discussion, and issue with the OPA involvement to criminalize industrial hemp, is purely due to the influence from lobbyists and special interest groups who see this as a threat to their various profit-based agendas.

Ohio people need to have access freely to a safe plant and its derivatives and as a naturopath I am very interested to have these natural plant extracts available for my clients unhindered. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support SB 57 and the revisions and amendments that are being proposed. I thank you for your time.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kulasekere', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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