

I am standing here before you to oppose the changes made to SB 57. My concern is with the 10 year look back on felonies. I have personally been a vocal advocate of adding violent felonies while REMOVING NON VIOLENT CRIMES.

Yesterday Mike Mulvaney, Whitehouse Chief of Staff, while speaking on Meet the Press regarding gun laws said and I quote, "You have laws on the books that make murder illegal, yet they still do it. Laws are not going to fix everything."

That leads me to this question. Why in the age of criminal justice reforms across the nation and in our very own state in current SB 3 do we continue to perpetuate punishing Ohioans for a lifetime? SB 3 to visit reform and create new drug policy statutes.

Again I ask why? Why are we treating this plant like a scary drug that should never have been made illegal in the first place? A plant that's been mandated to be grown by farmers during the formative years of our country. The fibers of which are mandated in the ORC to cover the hats worn by the State Patrol officers in the lobby?

Why do I as a citizen of Ohio have to prove this to legislators who I have voted to represent me an Ohioan, the majority? I challenge you to prove to me as an Ohioan where in our history did hemp ever cause crime or public health issues BEFORE it was made a crime due to blatant racism and bigotry?

Now we have yet ANOTHER chance to correct this injustice to an entire sub culture that we have created. This sub culture of Ohioans formed over decades, now nearly a century, by continually rinsing and repeating the harm done to OHIO with ridiculous laws against Ohioans, some of which have stemmed from possession of this harmless plant called cannabis.

Complaints echo these halls everyday about this shadowy jobless sub culture of OHIOANS we have created. The very legislators that keep holding down this subculture of Ohioans through a judicial system that punishes you but never ever allows you to move on from that conviction even after fulfilling your responsibility to the State. A society where your very livelihood is forever affected because you have to check that box that says yes I had a felony, boom instant rejection. Now I cannot get a job, pay my child support, or pay bills.

I loose my kids, spouse, car, have to repay or never be eligible for student loans and housing. Again I ask why? Because I have to check that god forsaken box. Even in the case of an ILC, intervention in lieu of convictions. In this instance you have to plead guilty to the non violent drug offense to be eligible to get the "intervention" Upon completion your case is closed and sealed and there is NO CONVICTION ...but you still have to check that pesky god forsaken box the rest of your days in Ohio and America. For a 50 year old Ohio citizen or farmer who may have to wait 10 years before having a chance to enter the hemp program and possibly change the entire trajectory of his families future, could mean everything and further harm Ohio.

During my conversations with individuals present here today I have been told this cannot be done because the Federal Farm Bill of 2018 says it must be. In this instance I must remind you we have several State laws in conflict with Federal law to include the Medical Marijuana Control Program and most

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recently the heartbeat bill that have no regard for Federal governance. I would like to remind you that this was given to each state to create a program to encourage profitable farming, not to add cumbersome regulatory programs that stifle a free enterprise and sales of a commodity.

Your forethought and personal responsibility you have taken to educate yourselves on hemp and all the positive implications this can have for Ohio is appreciated. I encourage you to also include the criminal justice component of this bill to your investigation, it's a huge societal shift that's happening now and I would be proud of Ohio was a leader in that change while we have an opportunity to create an entire new industry from its infancy and raise it and groom it as if it were a child born in 2019 with bright hope for a future as an Ohioan. I would like to conclude there and take questions.

Thank you for your time.

Wendy Johnson

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