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SB9 135GA amend the Ohio Medical Cannabis Program OMCP

Ma'am, Sir,

In regards to the proposed changes, SB9, to the OMCP I share the following. As we saw in SB261 134GA the language focused more on infrastructure and supply, than it did so on the demand and patients. The need for more canopy space is a low priority at this time. Cultivators have not built out to their full capacity per program rules and there are still approximately six cultivators yet to receive their certificates to operate. The protection of patients continues to share a low priority in the program. To increase patient participation, the demand, protective language must be enacted in the rules. With a patient base of over three million potential patients and with only one hundred and sixty-five thousand actually purchasing. This certainly presents the need for criminal justice reform language and rules to be addressed. In respect I submit the following input for consideration to be included in SB9.

- ❖ Require the product packaging to include on the label a complete product profile to include all cannabinoids, terpenes and flavonoids.
- ❖ Nondiscriminatory housing protections. Permitting patients, a right to housing without being denied simply because they are a medical cannabis patient. Landlord rights to refuse vaping/smoking, smoking is currently prohibited, of plant material and flower is understood.
- ❖ Permit the consumption of plant flowers by smoking combustion. This method is the most direct way to receive the entourage effect benefit of the medicine. Several recent and older studies share this to be a safe method.

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- ❖ Child custody and care rights as the current rules present are being ignored in the courts. These rights need to be protected and respected in the court room.
  - ❖ Patients on probation by rule should be permitted to continue their medical consumption in the same manner as RX meds are continued.
  - ❖ OVI, operating a motor vehicle under the influence, laws need revised to comply with scientific values rather than arbitrary metrics currently employed.
  - ❖ Probable cause incident to search vehicles and persons via the odor of cannabis is unconstitutional to enforcement under the current classifications of the controlled substance act, CSA. Ohio now shares cannabis in 4 of 5 classifications, not including hemp.
  - ❖ The Drug Free Work Place Act is an inhibitor gauntlet to hiring employees when employing a THC test. With Ohio's OMCP being a schedule two classification, cannabis patients are privileged to the same respect RX med patients are entitled too.
  - ❖ Reciprocity from state to state for medical cannabis patients is a priority for traveling patients from other states as well as those in the OMCP. This provides a legal blanket from possession and consumption charges while in another cannabis friendly state. Further it reduces a patient's risk of interstate transportation or purchasing from the illicit market.
  - ❖ Environmentally safe and friendly packaging should be ruled to reduce the pejorative foot print on the environment. Recycle it!!!

#### Miscellaneous;

- ❖ Remove the tier 1 and 2 cultivation licenses and create a square footage canopy space equal for all cultivators.
- ❖ Provide protections for first responders, frontline medical and other discipline career patients. Again, it is discriminatory to permit RX meds and to deny schedule two medical cannabis.
- ❖ Mandate continued education units, CEU's, for employees working in the cultivation, processing and testing facilities. Those working in dispensaries are required to maintain training credits in their non-technical field. Mandated training for technical disciplines is only commonsense.

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As a reminder the OMCP is a CSA schedule two classification and without prejudice should be treated as such as are RX meds in employment, banking, child custody, school grants and more. The OMCP is a state program and not a federal program. Therefore, state law must be applicable to medical cannabis patients as it is to RX med patients to protect the challenge of prejudice, discriminatory and biased claims of the program being unconstitutional in matter.

In Safety,

*Tim Johnson*

