

BEFORE THE OHIO SENATE
Senate General Government Committee

Testimony of Sandy Schlauch

OFFERED AS A PROPONENT AS TO
SENATE BILL 9

MARCH 13, 2023

1. Chairman Rulli and honorable members of this committee, thank you for allowing me to testify here today as an interested party regarding Senate Bill 9 (SB 9). My name is Sandy Schlauch , I am a patient in Ohio’s medical marijuana program. I suffer from fibromyalgia which is a musculoskeletal disorder that amplifies the way my brain processes pain. It is chronic, not curable, but doesn’t harm joints or organs in destructive manner (as in Lupus). I also have arthritis, lupus, and “chronic and severe, and intractable pain”.

I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia more than 25 years ago. My symptoms included and continue to be:

- 1). Pain all over my body, including throbbing, sharp and knife-like, stabbing, burning and aching
- 2). Numbness
- 3) Stiffness
- 4). Tingling

- 5). Fatigue
- 6). Insomnia
- 7). Difficulty concentrating

Doctors prescribed a medication specific to Fibromyalgia, and nothing much has changed since my original diagnosis. Meds are only prescribed to treat the symptoms since it is incurable. The added difficulty in taking the meds were the side effects almost as debilitating as the pain: vomiting, diarrhea, swelling in arms and legs, weight gain, and mood swings. The med does not effect or help alleviate the insomnia, fatigue, or difficulty concentrating. In other words, taking care of my family and home, working full time has been difficult.

Medical marijuana has definitely improved the quality of my life. My goal was to alleviate as many of the symptoms as possible. One of the first significant changes was improvement in my sleep patterns. My sleep became deeper and lasted longer which is one of the top most important factors to reaching and maintaining good health, without becoming addicted to sleep meds. Getting better, deeper sleep also reduced my fatigue and improved my concentration.

Quality of life is extremely important to me. And the total absence of any side effects caused by prescribed medications provided a much better frame

of mind for me to cope.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Schlauch, Seville OH