

Opponent Testimony for HB 86
Ohio House General Government Committee
December 5, 2023

Anthony Riley

Ohio Cannabis Live

Chair Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora, and esteemed Committee Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to address HB 86 and its potential impact on Ohio's cannabis laws. As a representative of Ohio Cannabis Live, I aim to advocate for thoughtful reform that aligns with the will of Ohioans.

With the passage of Issue 2, Ohioans expressed a clear desire for regulated adult-use cannabis. We must build upon this mandate rather than undermine it.

HB 86 raises concerns regarding alterations that could adversely affect the medical cannabis program, particularly with the proposed removal of home grow provisions, imposition of lower THC caps, and strict dispensary licensing. These changes could restrict access for medical patients, compelling them to navigate the recreational market for essential medication.

Moreover, the imposition of a smoking ban on medical cannabis patients poses an undue burden, forcing patients to choose between medical necessity and compliance with new regulations.

Furthermore, unresolved issues around expungement, social equity, and housing protections require urgent attention. Releasing individuals convicted of low-level cannabis offenses and ensuring equitable opportunities for all Ohioans are pressing matters.

HB 86 also risks diverting revenue to neighboring states and unnecessarily burdening Ohio residents already embracing legalized cannabis.

I urge this esteemed Committee to consider the broader implications of HB 86 on both the recreational and medical cannabis sectors. It's crucial to listen to constituents' concerns and seek common ground for responsible, equitable reform that respects the will of Ohio voters.

In conclusion, let's collaborate to improve Issue 2, safeguard the medical cannabis program, and ensure progressive legislation that reflects the interests and needs of Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm available to address any inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,
Anthony Riley
Ohio Cannabis Live