

Seven Hills, OH 44131
December 4, 2023

To:
Jacob Coman
Legislative Aide
Senator Rulli
33rd Ohio Senate District
(614) 466-8285
Jacob.Coman@ohiosenate.gov

I am writing to express my concerns that the Ohio legislature is proposing to eliminate the voter passed provision allowing home growing of cannabis. Please add my letter to the written testimony for this bill.

I use legal cannabis and have an Ohio MMJ card. The cost per year is about \$1450 for me including about \$1200 for the cannabis, \$200 for the doctor approval, and \$50 to the Ohio board regulating medical MMJ. I pay this but it is a hardship. If I can grow my own MMJ, the cost will drop to about \$50 per year for seed and supplies.

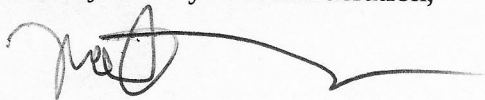
I would be dead without MMJ. I've been in constant pain for 30 years and worked with doctors trying most every pain medication that can be prescribed. MMJ is the only medication that addresses my chronic pain and access to it allowed me to avoid disability and to be a productive citizen of this state.

It is important to know that approximately 20% of Ohio residents suffer from chronic pain (https://journals.lww.com/pain/abstract/2022/02000/prevalence_of_chronic_pain_among_adults_in_the_31.aspx). Many of these people do not have the means to pay for MMJ at a cost of \$1500/year and up and it's use is not covered by any medical insurance. Not allowing individuals to grow their own medicine will increase disability and encourage some to engage in illegal activities born out of desperation.

Finally, I agree with your desire to keep cannabis out the hands of children. Unfortunately you are about 50 years too late. I grew up in the 70's and cannabis was super easy to get then and is and is even easier to get today. With neighboring states legalizing MMJ, it is easy to access.

I hope you consider the compassionate response to allow MMJ home growing.

Thank you for your consideration,



Matthew Fleming