

Good day all,

I write this testimony in a state of bewilderment.

House Bill 86, dealing with what would seem to be minor tweaks to liquor laws, has been twisted into chaos. Chaos of tying a commonsense altering of allowing tasting regulations to assist businesses to an insane scramble of amending the voter approved marijuana issue.

First, I wonder how the original sponsor feels. Seeing the bill which could be celebrated instead decimated by components unrelated to the original cause.

Now the amendments themselves. I'm sure you all have seen various outlets reporting on them. There's so much that has been hashed over, for instance "ignoring the will of the voters", "gutting the law", and many other remarks. What I do NOT see reported is a shred of positivity for this endeavor. People aren't being ignored in this, they are being blatantly insulted.

Governor DeWine was quoted "we do this in a very responsible way, we do it in a respectable way. And we do it, frankly, the Ohio way". That said, allow for these questions:

- Is it "very responsible" to attach sweeping overhauls to an unrelated bill instead of it's own standalone legislation that has time for thoughtful debate?
- Is it "respectable" that while the General Assembly after watching the results immediately vowed changes?
- Is "the Ohio way" to become a euphemism for "reactive not proactive", "knee jerk", or "California policies flipped, with the same political elitism"?

We have a long history of office holders looking around at their own failures and trying to clean up (ECOT anyone?). If no one saw the marijuana issue coming, look around. How much time did you have to craft meaningful reform that the people had to take it upon themselves to do YOUR job, only to face your wrath for your own deficiencies?

So many examples off topic of the same result are there. I digress.

In summary, you have two choices. Proceed with this exercise in holier than thou behavior and amend a simple liquor bill to include unrelated items, or actually listen to the people and like wine let the issue breathe. In that analogy I suppose a far reaching argument could mingle the two. The latter would show faith in you, the latter... well, I guess we can just fall back on "The Ohio Way".

I thank you for your time,  
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