

Good Afternoon, Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate General Government Committee. My name is Nickole Ross; I am an owner and operator of Noohra Labs, an independent processor in Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program. I appreciate the work of legislators to improve the initiated statute and the monopoly control of additional licenses given with the introduction of Senate Bill 86. Unfortunately, I testify before you today with great concerns that the current bill could do more harm than good to the Medical and Adult Use program.

If not properly amended and adjusted in the current conditions that have been proposed, the patients and existing operators will directly be impacted by excessive taxes. Also, non-vertical operators will be restricted from producing quality and compliant medicine for patients and consumers in Ohio. Which is the primary focus of our program and our business as licensed operators. Independent operators like Noohra Labs can then be squeezed out, based on supply chain control and pricing whether it's manufacturing supplies or retail business-to-business sales. Creating cannibalization of licenses, monopolies with limited operators, and leaving local and independent operators left to survive.

The Medical Control Program and now Adult Use Initiative is about keeping patients safe with tested, reliable products in Ohio and focusing on employment opportunities, economic development and inclusion, community impact, and sustainable growth, while effectively fighting the long battle of the War on Drugs that has impacted all communities immensely. We still have challenges getting onto dispensary shelves with current retail operators, due to an oversupply of limited product SKUs and patient decline due to a lack of education and proper advertising. We want this program to be successful for the patient and current supply chain operators together to apply and receive just and equitable regulated licensur.

I do agree that I program can be better in some areas, but we must first review collectively to ensure that we know what works in the rules for patients' sake and fair operator growth. We must ensure that each operating business is healthy and working together first with continued standards and quality that have been developed and approved now and in the future for our industry in the Division of Cannabis Control. If one group of operators has opportunities to be vertical in law, then we all should be given opportunities as licensed operators to build a sustainable supply chain for standalone operators.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions you or the committee may have.

Warm Regard,

Nickole Ross-Owner, COO

Noohra Labs LLC