



**Senate Bill 198
Proponent Testimony
House Judiciary Committee
April 30, 2025**

Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 198, legislation that seeks to regulate ingestible hemp products.

As President of the Ohio Grocers Association, I proudly represent over 300 food retail, wholesale and supply companies across the Buckeye state. My members include the smallest “mom and pop” stores, independent grocers as well as some convenience stores and of course the food wholesalers who supply these stores.

We share the Legislature’s concern on making sure intoxicating products are kept out of the hands of our children. Our members have extensive experience and take the responsibility of selling a wide range of adult products to consumers on a daily basis. There are rigid protocols and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that any adult use product is only sold to an age-appropriate consumer.

House Bill 198 incorporates a regulatory framework that addresses youth access through strict regulatory oversight, while supporting Ohio’s hemp industry. These include components such as age-restricting products; product labeling and rigid testing procedures; and other regulatory requirements. We believe this is the best approach to not harm legitimate Ohio businesses, like grocery stores, while maintaining proper limitations and safety measures. Because of these measures, OGA supports House Bill 198 and urges its passage.

We look forward to continuing to work with the committee on this legislation moving forward.

