

Chairman, members of the committee,

My name is Alexander Huska. I'm 31 years old, born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. I come before you not as a lobbyist or large corporate interest—but as a small business owner, patient, and lifelong Ohioan who has worked hard to overcome adversity and give back to my community.

I grew up in a lower-income household, attended Cuyahoga Community College, and at age 21, was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. I was prescribed Humira, a pharmaceutical that ultimately led to a second, life-altering diagnosis: multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune condition triggered as a side effect.

That experience changed my life—and my path. I sought out education in medical cannabis, earning a degree in Medical Cannabis Applications, driven by a desire to help others find natural, effective alternatives. With determination, I became one of the first licensed hemp processors in the state of Ohio. Since then, I've built a local business that now includes multiple hemp retail stores and employs numerous hardworking Ohioans.

We have proudly helped thousands of Ohio residents access high-quality, lab-tested hemp-derived products that offer real relief and support. Every step of our operation is legal, transparent, and responsibly managed.

Senate Bill 56 threatens everything we've built.

By banning access to hemp-derived cannabinoids, this bill doesn't protect the public—it pushes safe, regulated products out of legal businesses and into the black market or large corporate interests. It risks eliminating thousands of jobs, shuttering small businesses, and cutting off patients who rely on these products, all without addressing the core issue: responsible regulation.

We support smart oversight. We welcome testing standards, packaging rules, and age restrictions. But banning these products outright will not solve the problem—it will only drive it underground, where safety and accountability are lost.

I urge you to consider the real people this bill will impact: not just entrepreneurs like me, but patients, veterans, and working families who rely on these natural alternatives to improve their quality of life.

Please oppose Senate Bill 56 and work with Ohio's hemp community to create regulations that protect consumers without destroying opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Alexander Huska
Cleveland, Ohio