

Good morning, members of the committee. My name is Kenzie Cherry, and I've worked in Ohio's cannabis industry for over four years now. I travel all over the state and have had the privilege of meeting hundreds of patients and consumers. I've heard firsthand how cannabis has changed—and in some cases, saved—their lives.

I'm not a politician. Speaking here today is intimidating. But I know the ways cannabis can benefit people. I've seen what people across Ohio need & I know Senate Bill 56 does not reflect that.

Over 57% of Ohioans voted to legalize cannabis through Issue 2. That included promises of social equity, protections for tenants, fair access to medicine, and long-term revenue for our communities. This bill breaks those promises.

Instead of 36% in tax revenue to townships and municipalities indefinitely, it drops that to just 25% for seven years. It adds vague and confusing language about potency, limiting access for patients who rely on stronger medicine—and forcing them to pay more for relief.

It also punishes the very people who were most harmed by cannabis criminalization, barring them from working in the legal industry. That's not justice.

Cannabis isn't the problem in Ohio. But ignoring the will of the voters is. Please don't pass a bill that restricts access, deepens inequality, and shuts out the voices of people who've lived this reality.

Ohio deserves better. Please reject Senate Bill 56.