

**Opponent Testimony for SB56
House Judiciary Committee
6/4/2025**

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Hello again. It's a shame to have to see you all again under such circumstances but when duty calls- this community answers.

Through the Chair, to the members of this Committee- thanks to those of you who have taken the time to speak to your constituents and members of our community. Representatives like Synenberg, Muhammed, Tims, Odioso, Calendar and Ranking Member Issacsohn have inspired hope in myself and many others, allowing us to believe that there are still representatives that are willing to listen to their voters and respect the will of the people.

It is clear to those paying attention that this Committee intends to move rapidly on this legislation. Whether it's combining testimony dates, limiting opponents to 3 minutes when proponents get 5, or the moving goal posts of June 1st, now to the end of the month... It leads myself and many others to question, who is asking for this so quickly?

I have spoken with DRE's (Drug Recognition Experts) across the state, I have inquired with local law enforcement and state highway patrol. Our Cannabis Consumer Coalition has employees from all sectors of the state, and in speaking with community leaders, public servants, and fellow citizens, it's hard to find anyone that is ASKING for these changes. Yes, there are modifications that need to be made to ORC 3780 as was established through Issue 2.

This statehouse is attempting to address minor cannabinoids and hemp, but unfortunately ignoring public testimony informing them of their lack of understanding and offering a hand out to help. Agriculture is hurting in this state, and hemp can serve as a resource for farmers, environmental issues, community resources and more. There is a significant difference between THCA, Delta9, and other minor cannabinoids. The natural vs artificial nature of these compounds is core to understanding and safety, but the language in SB56 is harmful to numerous industries across this Great State.

The Ohio Cannabis Consumer Coalition is here to help this Committee and the Statehouse as a whole. We continue to arrive for testimony, rally support and share our experience. We are not asking you to ignore this industry and leave existing issues unaddressed. Rep Williams has made a great point about the legality of social equity, with a simple change to address economic equity the precedent set by the Supreme Court re; social equity would no longer be a concern.

We are asking you to give us a chance. Our community is much broader than the existing Coalition of over 120 members. It is the duty of the Legislative Branch to create, edit and remove laws, and to do this by representing those who voted for them. It is not the job of this community to write amendments and build our own framework, but if you continue to ignore our votes and our testimonies, we will create our own pathway. We are building educational tools, we would be happy to share our resources and help educate those in the Statehouse. From there the state can educate its people and lead to a safer community for all.

We are asking you to fulfill your duty. I have personally aided many friends in submitting their testimony and engaged in conversations with others submitting their testimony. If you want to know our specific concerns, my fellow coalition members have and will continue to make those clear, and if you're still curious- I recommend following Representative Synenberg and Odioso's lead and picking up the phone and calling some of us back.

Please, we ask that you show us that the concern of those affected by legislation is equally as important as those who can afford lobbyists. Most of us work full time jobs, have families and contribute to our local communities. Taking a day off with less than 4 days notice and arriving at the statehouse at the same time as many buildings start their work day is NOT an easy task. Many are travelling from across the state to speak. Please, uphold the values this country was founded on, take some time to meet this community halfway and let's work together. We are happy to provide framework, guidance, direct testimony, whatever it takes to make this an equitable playing field for hemp, cannabis and the people.