

Good morning,

Through the chair, to the members of the committee- thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide opponent testimony for Senate Bill 56. My name is Madison Millard and I am a member of the Cannabis Consumer Coalition, an Ohio cannabis industry professional and educator, an advocate for natural medicine, as well as a medical cannabis user myself.

This is my third time attending a hearing regarding changes to the current cannabis laws laid out in Issue 2, and I am sure it won't be the last. I would like to speak broadly for now.

If our representatives truly want to represent the will of their voters, they will listen to us. I would like to believe we are still living in a functional democracy where the most effective and productive way to have your voice heard is through your vote. Passing a bill that takes away so many major components of issue 2 that the people voted for, only leads Ohioans to believe that their voice and their VOTE does not matter. Too many young people today don't believe their vote counts as it is, and when we have representatives calling their voters stupid, while making irresponsible and reckless changes with no real knowledge on the details of the subject matter, it continues to lead people to believe we aren't living in a true democracy anymore. How can we have confidence our vote matters and trust our elected officials will accurately represent us? What is the point of voting if our representatives continue to ignore the will of the people they represent and make up their own rules? Does majority rules still matter, or is that only in the case of voting for reps?

Legalizing the regulated sale of cannabis, while criminalizing the consumption, sharing, and mere possession as well with mandatory jail time and fines, is irresponsible, dangerous, and incredibly insulting. Gifting a medicated topical to my grandfather battling cancer shouldn't put me in jail. Sharing a joint with my sister on a walk around the neighborhood shouldn't put me in jail.

I urge you to listen to the people before you today, learn from us, and let us work together to come up with a bill based on adequate knowledge of the subject matter and honors and respects the will of the Ohio voters. Let's take our time with this and stop pushing such an ignorant and insulting bill through so quickly without change. We can do better. Please vote down Senate Bill 56.