

**TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Please See My Opposition to Senate Bill 56 and the Sub Bill

Please Provide Confirmation of Receipt

Date: June 3, 2025

My Name: Zachary Talaganis **My Affiliation:** Ohio Cannabis Consumer Coalition

Good afternoon distinguished members of the House Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to Senate Bill 56 and the sub bill.

I am reaching out to express my serious concerns regarding Senate Bill 56, a bill that purports to "revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws." While the stated intent may be to streamline regulations, the reality of this legislation is a concerning step backward for the will of Ohio voters, and a dangerous overreach that undermines crucial aspects of the regulated cannabis market and the rights of individual citizens.

First and foremost, **SB 56 directly undermines the democratic will of Ohioans**. A clear majority of voters approved Issue 2, establishing a framework for adult-use cannabis in our state. This was not merely a suggestion; it was a mandate from the people. SB 56 attempts to dismantle key components of that voter-approved initiative, including drastically reducing the number of plants individuals can grow at home and, most egregiously, **eliminating the vital social equity and jobs program**. This program was a cornerstone of Issue 2, designed to address the historical injustices and disproportionate impacts of past cannabis prohibition on marginalized communities. To abolish it entirely is to ignore the very people who have suffered most from outdated drug policies.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions regarding **THC content limits** are arbitrary and fly in the face of scientific understanding and consumer demand. By reducing allowable THC levels in extracts and other products, SB 56 limits consumer choice and could inadvertently push consumers towards the unregulated black market, where product safety and potency are unverified. This directly contradicts the goal of a safe, regulated market.

The bill's attempt to **outlaw the unlicensed transfer of home-grown cannabis between adults** is an absurd and impractical overreach into private conduct. This provision, if enacted, would criminalize what many consider a harmless act of sharing, further burdening our legal system and creating unnecessary friction between law enforcement and law-abiding citizens.

Finally, while the bill purports to combine and streamline regulations, it does so by stripping away the more thoughtful and equitable provisions established by Issue 2. It centralizes power and discretion in a manner that does not serve the best interests of consumers, businesses, or the communities that are meant to benefit from a regulated cannabis market.

Ohio needs thoughtful and measured legislation that builds upon the foundation laid by Issue 2, not one that seeks to dismantle it. We need policies that prioritize public safety through robust regulation, ensure fair access for all, and uphold the democratic process. SB 56 plus the sub bill fails on all these counts.

I urge this committee to recognize the serious flaws within Senate Bill 56 and to vote "no" on its passage. Let us instead work towards legislation that truly reflects the will of the people and creates a just and equitable cannabis industry for all Ohioans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Zachary Talaganis - zdtalaganis@gmail.com