



**Ohio Senate
Finance Committee
May 29, 2025
Proponent Testimony on HB 96**

Good morning, Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Leah Kaufman and I am the Assistant Vice President of Public Policy at Shatterproof. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent written testimony and convey Shatterproof's support of **House Bill 96** to promote drug misuse prevention and awareness regarding the risks of marijuana use. We commend your leadership on this important public health issue, particularly given the growing health concerns related to the impacts of marijuana on youth and young adults. Shatterproof is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the addiction crisis. Shatterproof is focused on empowering communities, removing systemic barriers to recovery, mobilizing the country to advocate for change, and ending addiction stigma.

We are supportive of the House-added provision in the budget to require the Division of Cannabis Control to implement a statewide prevention campaign to educate individuals on the harmful effects of marijuana, particularly with youth. We applaud the Ohio House for including this provision in the state budget and we request the Senate maintain this provision in the budget to raise awareness given the troubling research on the effects of cannabis and youth especially on mental health including increased risk of suicide:^{i ii}

- Major research findings in May 2023 showed a strong association between cannabis use disorder (CUD) and schizophrenia. The research found that “as many as 30% of cases of schizophrenia among men aged 21-30 might have been prevented by averting Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD).” For perspective, 3.5 million people have been diagnosed with schizophrenia in the United States. Given these alarming statistics, every effort should be made to avoid providing youth with access to products containing THC.
- Cannabis use is associated with suicide-related outcomes in both adolescents and adults and may be increasing amid shifting cannabis policies. Youth males aged 14 to 16 years had a 15% higher rate of suicide in states with recreational marijuana legalization (RML) compared to states with Medical Marijuana Legalization (MML) and states without Marijuana Legalization (ML). Female youth who lived in MML and RML states had a 10% and 16% greater risk for suicide.ⁱⁱⁱ

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Leah Kaufman
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ⁱ Bailey, J. A., Epstein, M., Roscoe, J. N., Oesterle, S., Kosterman, R., & Hill, K. G. (2020). Marijuana legalization and youth marijuana, alcohol, and cigarette use and norms. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 59(3), 309–316.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2020.04.008>

ⁱⁱ Hammond, C. J., Hyer, J. M., Boustead, A. E., Fristad, M. A., Steelesmith, D. L., Brock, G. N., Hasin, D. S., & Fontanella, C. A. (2023). Association between marijuana laws and suicide among 12- to 25-year-olds in the United States From 2000 to 2019. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, S0890-8567(23)00341-6.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2023.06.014>

ⁱⁱⁱ Hammond C.J., Hyer J.M., Boustead A.E., et al. **Association between marijuana laws and suicide among 12- to 25-year-olds in the United States from 2000 to 2019.** *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2024; **63**: 345-354 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2023.06.014>