

Hello, my name is Adam Sheff. I've been utilizing cannabis for almost 30 years. I'm enthusiastic about the subject of Ortho molecular medicine, which is the treatment of disease and disorders through nutrition. I am here today to speak about some of my concerns with the proposed changes to current cannabis legislation that are outlined in SB56. My overwhelming opinion of SB56 is that it should be torn up and thrown in the trash, due to the complete disregard for the voters of the state. I believe that it is a waste of your time, it is a waste of my time, and it is a punch to the gut of the voters that turned out in this state back in 2023, but I've narrowed down my testimony here today to a few main bullet points.

My number one concern with SB56 is that the people of the state voted for 12 plants and the right to share their homegrown product. Other concerns with SB56 are the increase in the excise tax from 10 to 15%, and the restrictions on transport of homegrown product.

I'll start with the excise tax. There seems to be an overwhelming theme in state legislature and in SB56, of a goal to dismantle the black market in the state of Ohio. Certainly most of us here realize that price predicates almost everything in our lives. Raising the excise tax is not going to dismantle the black market in the state of Ohio. It will most certainly encourage black market sales and production in the state of Ohio. If you truly want to dismantle the black market in Ohio, lowering the price point is the path to achieving that goal. This can easily be achieved through healthy competition utilizing small and craft Tier III grows, more processors, and more dispensaries.

Transport. My concerns with the issue of transport are that cannabis is something that is meant to be shared. If you can't transport the product, you cannot share the product. The wording contained in SB56 pertaining to transport is going to regulate cannabis as if it were a firearm. People would need to put it in the trunk of their car. Meanwhile, you can drive around freely with entire cases of liquor, which is a physically addictive and highly intoxicating substance, on your front seat. When regulating cannabis I feel it is extremely important to consider that cannabis is overwhelmingly safer than alcohol, and should be regulated as such.

I'd like to finish today speaking about homegrow plant count and the right to share this product with our of age neighbors, our friends, and our family. Cannabis is extremely useful in increasing the quality of life for people that have a wide range of debilitating disease. Including but not limited to multiple sclerosis, cancer, insomnia, everyday ailments such as the flu including nausea and body aches associated with the flu, assistance in addiction recovery, and appetite stimulation. There is a very long list in this bill for qualifying medical conditions. I won't read them all to you. The medicinal benefits of this complex plant are too vast to regulate in the way that SB 56 wants to regulate, but I'll focus today on cancer, because who here in this room has not been touched in some way shape or form by that particular disease? Most of us unfortunately have. In my experience with cannabis and cancer, I have had many conversations with terminal cancer patients who never otherwise would have utilized the plant in their lives before their cancer diagnosis. Many of these people have told me that cannabis had "given them their lives back". That's a direct quote from multiple close personal contacts of mine, that did not survive their fight with their form of cancer. One man particularly just wanted to be

able to make lunch for his 9 year old daughter. Cannabis gave that to him for several years before he passed away at a very young age. I currently have several people that I share my homegrown product with that are now able to sleep regularly, and eat, and accomplish what would otherwise be mundane tasks for a healthy and able bodied person. Just last week I transported and gifted some home grow product to a neighbor who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and walks around with a drain and bag coming out of his stomach. This man is most certainly not in a condition to cultivate his own medicine, and as you can imagine, is not in a financial position to purchase a medicinal product that is not covered by health insurance. I, being an able bodied person, am not only able to grow and share this product with him currently, but am highly motivated to do so. I got a message from his wife the next day. She wanted me to know that he had not slept that soundly since his diagnosis almost a year ago. This is why I would argue that not only do we need and deserve the right to share our homegrow product, but I would also argue that 12 plants isn't enough. Not only do home growers face many challenges in cultivating cannabis including pests, disease, weather events, a single hale storm could destroy an entire outdoor crop, and just not having the experience with cultivating the plant. We need to be able to grow enough product to share with our neighbors that can and do benefit from this plant in their last days. So I am here today for the first time in my life begging all of you to consider this bill with compassion, and vote to rip it up and throw it in the trash where it belongs.