

Today I'm standing here as a farmer, a patient a subject matter expert as it relates to employee benefits, plans and pharmaceutical spending. I'm in opposition of just a few items within this bill because I have my own bucket of water to carry as it relates to senate bill 86, when you all have that on the docket. As a farmer, I'm asking you to remove the clause that prohibits Hemp farmers from growing high THC cannabis outside. I'm one of seven hemp farmers left in Ohio and our family has endured many challenges with this market. Let me say it slow- Everyone was so adamant that the cannabis sold in dispensaries was GROWN in Ohio however these products are being infused with minor cannabinoids, like CBD and CBN, purchased and shipped from processors in other states. I've been working with the OHIO Farm Bureau for over a year now and developing the very policy that supports allowing hemp farmers to grow high THC cannabis outside. We've got an energy crisis on our hands and we're growing plants indoors. A recent article by Benzinga Cannabis stated that an indoor grow takes as much as 100 times the amount of energy as a Walmart does. I also factually know that it cost around \$40 per pound to grow cannabis outside versus 500 inside. So now I come to you as a patient and ask you please not to put this in your policy to disallow this. I'm paying 10 times the amount to go get an edible gummy then I could in Michigan because you're requesting Under lights, which is absurd. Oil production should be done economically, ecologically, and agriculturally which is outside under the sun. It only makes sense to grow this part of the medicine outside. Boutique and craft flour is grown indoors. The states that are ahead of us by five and 10 years are aware of this and have a much different market. When we know we have an energy crisis on our hands and that state up north seems to be whipping our pants as it relates to the economics and the agricultural aspect of this plant. The other piece that you won't find any label because the FDA doesn't allow it is that I hear firsthand how these Products, both cannabis and hemp, help people get off of prescription drugs. I'll say it again these products help people get off of prescription drugs. That helps families spend less on healthcare as well as employers. Knowing that pharmaceuticals make up almost 20% of a private employers healthcare spend and seeing where we're headed with the advancements and saliva testing, it's only a matter of time before everybody wants to throw these prescriptions down the drain. So again. my ask of you is to let him farmers grow high THC cannabis outside. It's a simple request- just remove that and amend this policy so that it doesn't say we can't because we'll be requesting this time and time again. OHIO will grow outside one day and we're gonna look back and say Gwiz what happened to all the hemp farmers, the people who were growing cannabis outside originally to begin with? What happened to those folks? Why didn't we engage and enlist them to do this when we were getting whipped by the team up north that stayed up north as it relates to the economics?

I'd also like to add that independent cannabis processors are literally beholden to terrible product that's mold ridden and needed remediated and they have no control of supply so they're being choked out where vertically integrated operators do what they want when they want. OHIO needs this and it's table stakes for any cannabis market.

Thank you, and any other questions?

