

**Ohio 136TH General Assembly
Senate General Government Committee
SB56 Opponent Testimony
January 29, 2025**

Madam Chairperson Roegner, Madam Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Senator Blakshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present opponent testimony before you today regarding SB56, an anti cannabis bill that would place Ohio back into a “New Era of Cannabis Prohibition” creating laws criminalizing the cannabis community and endangering the existence of Ohio’s current cannabis industry programs. A bill that dismisses the will of the Ohio people.

My name is Tim Johnson, I’m a retired Law Enforcement Officer, an Air Force Veteran and the Founder of Cannabis Safety First. I have spent the last ten years in the people's house as an Advocate, Legislative Advisor, Safety/Security Specialist and Subject Matter Specialist as a participant in creating Ohio’s medical cannabis program, hemp program and advising on Issue2 legislative rule packaging revision language.

SB56 presents as a redundant bill to the current rule packages of Issue2 still under construction, to rules currently in place for the medical cannabis program and hemp program. To share a few; child resistant and non attractive packaging already exist, no public consumption such as at ballparks exists and commonsense guidelines and guardrails have been implemented for industry standards, public safety and personal safety.

Challenge fear mongering;

6 plants but not enforced until 23 plants, unfounded???

Number of joints from home grow 3600 yr 10 joints a day, unfounded??

6plants x 4oz x 28grms x 3 rounds equals 2016 1 gram joints.

The truth;

Cigarettes at 20 a day 7300, will kill you.

Jim Canepa, DCC, has and is doing a great job in promulgating rule packages by following the timeline of Issue2 which 2.2 million Ohion’s voted in favor of. There is no logical reason to interfere with this process or to interrupt its progress other than

to introduce over regulation language from the social stigma and fear mongering lies of the cannabis community and industry.

The purpose of cannabis legalization is to correct the criminalization laws, free up our courts and first responders and to address the decriminalization of cannabis. SB56 presents as though the ORC 2925 chapter drug laws might as well be rewritten to further criminalize the cannabis community.

This bill was presented as a concern for public safety and to protect our children. If this is true and not for show then let's address the real issues of public safety and protect our children with sincerity by addressing the following;

- Firearms.
- Alcohol.
- Tobacco.
- Melatonin.
- Caffeine.
- Bullying,

SB56 presents as a bill to enhance criminal penalties rather than to support the potential of a vibrant and sustainable new industry in Ohio creating jobs, companies and revenue.

SB56 tax proposal will only end in consumers and patients returning to the illicit market, back to personal cultivation and driving to border states to purchase products eventually collapsing the Ohio industry licensees.

SB59 no firearm taxes and SB33/135thGA, 200 gallons moonshine per household, are in direct conflict with taxes and safety concerns and yet you entertain them.

Proponents;

Ohio Chamber of Commerce membership from licensees

Prosecutors don't want to lose their asset seizure funds.

No proof of the abundance of illicit markets flooded with fentanyl.

Data shows teen use declines with legalization.

Arbitrary impaired driving laws. Where are stats from the last 50yrs.

The Doctor from Poison Control shared mistruths about children dying in Ohio from cannabis gummies in finance committee, 2024, could not produce documents.

In Safety,

Tim Johnson
614.736.1861
Founder / President
Cannabis Safety First LLC
timj.cannabissafetyfirst@gmail.com

CANNABIS
SAFETY FIRST

Resources;

☰ Hemp ACT 2025

☰ probable cause act 2025

☰ Ohio cannabis reform act 2025

☰ melatonin act 2025

<https://www.axios.com/local/cleveland/2025/02/06/ohios-woeful-anti-tobacco-spending>

<https://www.cleveland19.com/story/37970384/fda-bans-bulk-pure-caffeine-years-after-ohio-teens-deadly-overdose/>

<https://www.13abc.com/2024/06/27/clearing-up-confusion-about-marijuana-ovi-ohio/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/kids-caffeine-dangerous-combination-study-suggests-n132536>

<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/alcohol>

<https://www.idsupra.com/legalnews/navigating-the-complexities-of-cannabis-3621905/>

<https://com.ohio.gov/about-us/media-center/news/online-resource-highlights-liquor-permit-renewal-process>