



## GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 02/16/2025

Name: Cole Maloy

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Organization Representing: Italian Herbs

Testifying on Bill Number: Senate Bill 59

Testimony:  Verbal  Written  Both

Testifying As:  Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?  Yes  No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am employed as the head of security at Italian Herbs Dispensary in Ohio. My role involves ensuring the safety and security of both the staff and customers, and I have direct experience in seeing how cannabis policies impact both operations and the customer experience. I would like to express my strong opposition to the following provisions in the proposed legislation: the increase in taxes and removal of local revenue distribution, the potency cap of 100mg, and the requirement for separate storage for adult-use and medical marijuana. Each of these measures, in my view, would create unnecessary obstacles for dispensaries, employees, and consumers.

### **1. Taxes Being Increased and Taken Away from Local Municipalities**

The proposed increase in taxes on cannabis and the redirection of those funds away from local municipalities would harm not just the dispensary industry, but also the communities we serve. Local municipalities are the ones who provide essential services like public safety, road maintenance, and community health programs. As a security guard, I see firsthand how important these local resources are to the safety and well-being of the community.

By increasing taxes and redirecting revenue away from local municipalities, we risk losing funding that directly benefits the people who live and work here. This could lead to cuts in services that support people with disabilities, the elderly, or those in need of healthcare. From a dispensary perspective, higher taxes would also raise the cost of cannabis products, which in turn impacts customers, particularly those with medical needs. For those already struggling with chronic conditions, the price increase could be a barrier to access. This policy would take away from the community rather than support it, making it harder for people to access safe and legal cannabis.

### **2. Potency Cap of 100mg**

The proposed potency cap of 100mg for cannabis products is a significant concern, especially for customers and patients who rely on cannabis for effective symptom management. As a security guard in a dispensary, I interact with customers who are using cannabis to treat various conditions, including severe pain, anxiety, and other debilitating health issues. Many of these people require higher-potency cannabis to achieve the relief they need. A 100mg cap on potency would limit their access to appropriate products, forcing them to buy larger quantities of lower-potency cannabis, which could be both inconvenient and more expensive.

For people with chronic conditions or those on fixed incomes, this is an undue burden. The higher-potency products available today are necessary for many individuals who have developed a tolerance over time. Imposing a potency cap would not only reduce the quality of care for these patients but could also push them toward the unregulated black market, where safety standards and quality control are not guaranteed. This would jeopardize public health and safety, which is the opposite of the intended goal of cannabis legalization.

### **3. Separate Storage for Adult Use and Medical Marijuana**

The requirement to store adult-use and medical marijuana products separately is another policy I believe would create unnecessary complications, especially from a security and operational standpoint. Currently, our dispensary manages both medical and adult-use cannabis products in an organized, efficient manner, with clear labeling and distinction at the point of sale. Requiring separate storage for these products would create logistical challenges and increase the risk of confusion or errors, especially for customers with mobility issues or those needing extra assistance.

As a security guard, my role is to ensure that the entire operation runs smoothly, and making these products harder to access would only slow down the process. This separation would also likely require additional storage space, increasing the operational costs for dispensaries. These increased costs would inevitably be passed on to consumers, making cannabis less affordable for both medical and recreational users. For medical patients, in particular, this added complexity could lead to unnecessary delays and confusion, which could negatively impact their experience and access to the products they rely on.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the proposed increase in taxes and redirection of funds away from local municipalities, the 100mg potency cap, and the requirement for separate storage of adult-use and medical marijuana products. Each of these provisions would create unnecessary obstacles for both dispensaries and our customers. The goal should be to create a cannabis market that is safe, accessible, and affordable. I urge the committee to reconsider these proposals and adopt policies that support both the industry and the consumers who rely on cannabis for their well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cole Maloy

**Head of Security at Italian Herbs Dispensary**