

Hello,

I have work at the allotted times of meeting for this bill, but I wanted to ensure that my voice was heard in this controversial topic. Marijuana is not only a medicine but binds together communities for the better. Thus, being proven by other states such as California or Michigan. It is also enhanced by the fact that our bodies are made to take in marijuana through our endocannabinoids within our human bodies. This is not a drug to be abused and put people in dangerous situations such as an overdose.

It helps enhance the lives of people with Epilepsy, Sickle Cell, Depression, Suicidal Ideations, Peripheral Neuropathy, Opioid Addiction, Inflammation, Anorexia, and more. All of these things that can be helped without causing an aggressive fixation, mortal addictions and more. There are so many things it can help with and receding the accessibility of the product can cause major problems for those who use it. There is an entire program that has been set and worked on to get to the point we are now at, and in which I am a part of. I understand why there would be a cap on the number of distributors, or cultivation centers but at what point is it crossing the line of monopolizing this market? Although, I see in first person the hardships it can bring. My company is unable to make certain topicals because of the unattainable standards set by this bill, which creates hardships for our patients and those we serve.

If it were to be compared to the hospital/medical market (It is a market focused on making profit and keeping people back rather than truly treating and curing their patients), there are plenty of discrepancies. People that are prescribed Oxycodone, Fentanyl, Methadone and other very dangerous substances are able to drive, work, do their daily life as normal but if someone combusts or digests marijuana they are suddenly "impaired". As well as people can overdose and die on medications given by those in this medical field. How can someone be safe to drive on a substance they can die from, but people cannot smoke or enjoy their "safe and regulated" marijuana in the form of their choice.

The changes to this house bill go against what the majority of people that take part in the use of weed in Ohio want. People want the ability to combust their flower in the manner of their choice, work in any field of their choosing, especially if it is their medicine, and safe regulation on cultivators and distributors registered under the state. No one is worried

about the names influencing children to want to partake, wrong measurements, how many house plants we can grow, etc. I understand Ohio is more conservative but at what point is it stagnancy?

Do you know how many companies have been sued in the medical industry for wrongfully measuring high amounts of their product and are only fined. My own mother is a victim of being given the wrong amount and medicine, then having to be hospitalized because of the mistake. If someone is given the wrong marijuana, their life or future health will not be on the line. It is difficult for the wrongdoing companies to be shut down, minimize or compromised. Although the recreational and medical marijuana program has been running for less than three years, with minimal issues and the state wants to make changes. All of the changes made go against marijuana progression, and anyone who truly partakes in the medical/recreational Marijuana industry do not agree with if not all, a majority of the changes. Thus, leading me to believe our word is being overlooked and not truly heard. The only effective change was putting less taxes towards the sheriffs and to community programs. Even then, the amount of marijuana users tax dollars going to "sheriff education" and in their bank accounts is so much higher than to community programs.

I understand making it illegal for people to smoke marijuana in places that serve alcohol, but in reference, the bodily effects are more dangerous, if I were to take an Aleve and drink alcohol but it is a mere "recommendation" to not mix the two, not the end of your freedom. Once the state house and condemning counties realize this is a plant that has been abrogated due to propaganda and past generations trying to enhance the performance of the tobacco industry. It is time to be progressive and make better changes for the future rather than our own simplistic, old, minded wants. I think then we can begin to move forward.

The best thing would be to create a perspective, if tobacco kills 8 million people a year, including the 1.3 million killed from secondhand smoke and marijuana has not been on record for killing anyone, then what should truly be done (DEA and WHO, 2019 & 2023)? Do you not think you are focused on the wrong objectives or is the point to continue weakening the communities and that is why marijuana is being kept in the same mental frame it is?

United States Drug Enforcement Administration. "Marijuana." *Dea.gov*, 2019, www.dea.gov/factsheets/marijuana.

World Health Organization. "Tobacco." *World Health Organization*, 31 July 2023, www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco.