

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

I am here to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 86 ("SB 86"). My name is Jaimee Courtney, and I am the owner of Sunmed | Your CBD Store, located in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Since November 2019, my business has proudly served our community by offering high-quality, hemp-derived wellness products that promote well-being while contributing to Ohio's economy.

The proposed THC limits of 0.5mg per serving and 2.0mg per container outlined in SB 86 would have devastating consequences for my business and others like it across Ohio. These THC limits are arbitrary, lack scientific basis, and fail to align with the typical 30-day supply framework used in dietary supplements. Should these restrictions pass, they would eliminate 90% of the non-intoxicating full-spectrum hemp products we currently offer. This would drive consumers to unregulated online markets, creating potential safety risks and diverting significant tax revenue out of Ohio.

Additionally, discussions about transitioning all hemp products, including CBD, into the existing recreational marijuana regulatory framework are deeply concerning. This approach would irreparably harm small businesses like mine. Unlike dispensaries, we do not target or sell products designed for intoxication. Instead, we specialize in cannabinoids such as CBD, CBG, CBN, and THC-V—compounds that would neither thrive nor be permitted in a dispensary environment.

Since the legalization of marijuana in Ohio, my business initially experienced a decline. However, my customers have returned after realizing that dispensary products did not provide the same benefits or experience as our carefully curated hemp-derived offerings. Our products contain only naturally occurring cannabinoids and are not synthetically modified. The real issue lies in certain shops selling synthetic cannabinoids and products marketed toward children. These lab-created compounds, not naturally occurring in the hemp plant, are responsible for intoxicating effects. Rather than restricting safe, naturally derived products, I urge you to focus on banning synthetic cannabinoids and regulating irresponsible marketing practices.

Our customer base is also fundamentally different from that of dispensaries. The majority of our customers are over the age of 55, seeking non-intoxicating, hemp-rich products. Under the proposed THC limits, many of our customers would need to visit the store daily to purchase their wellness products, an unrealistic and unnecessary burden. These individuals would not feel comfortable visiting a dispensary and would struggle to find the products they rely on for their health and wellness.

Your CBD Store is unique. The reason I chose to open a franchise with Sunmed was the company's commitment to testing, transparency, education, and a natural approach to health. We prioritize our customers' well-being and provide only safe, naturally effective products. SB 86 would eliminate 90% of our inventory and deprive our customers of a natural approach to their health. These products are not found in dispensaries, and their removal would be devastating for the people who depend on them.

I urge you to consider supporting alternative, balanced approaches that address concerns about intoxicating hemp products without undermining an entire industry. The hemp industry supports regulation and would welcome a robust framework with measures such as establishing an age restriction of 21+, requiring childproof packaging, and banning synthetic, lab-created cannabinoids. Setting reasonable THC limits can enhance public safety while allowing small businesses like mine to continue serving our communities.

Please support small businesses and vote NO on Senate Bill 86.

Sincerely,

Jaimee Courtney

Owner, Sunmed | Your CBD Store
Bellefontaine, Ohio