

Hello General Senate Committee - I wanted to start off by saying "thank you" for having my testimony today and for hearing me out on this issue which I care so deeply about because Cannabis has saved my life.

My name is Daniel DelSignore Jr and I am a Medical Cannabis Patient here in Ohio as well as a Cannabis success story. I am a former Alcoholic as well as Benzodiazepine addict. I used to sleep for days/weeks at a time and during that time I lost valuable time in my life and with friends/family. I almost lost my life a couple of times during this time as well. In 2019, I got my Medical Cannabis card and it has changed my life for the better. Cannabis has not only helped me quit using Benzodiazepines and Alcohol - it has also given me my life back by helping me abstain from those toxic substances. Since becoming a Medical Cannabis Patient, I have been able to hold down two full time jobs this past year as well as live my best quality of life that I've had since I've been a child and that is all thanks to Cannabis. Cannabis takes away my anxiety without giving me nasty side effects such as: forgetting where I am/what I am doing, being unconscious for days at a time, and on top of all of that - it helps me abstain from Alcohol, Benzodiazepines and other harmful, dangerous substances as previously mentioned.

I was one of the 57% Ohioans who voted "Yes" on Issue 2 in November of 2023. I am writing today to urge you to stop trying to undermine the will of 57% of us and to stop trying to re-criminalize Cannabis users for something that is now legal in 38 U.S. States, including Ohio. I am urging you to stop trying to cap extract limits at 50 percent because there are many Medical Cannabis Patients who need higher potency extracts without all of the fillers that will be put into those extracts if Senate Bill 86 is passed. I am urging you to stop trying to raise the tax on Cannabis products as Cannabis products in Ohio are already nearly unaffordable for the average consumer. I am urging you to stop trying to cap the number of dispensaries available for Ohioans at 350 because we have many Ohioans who live in remote, rural communities that have been impacted heavily by the Opioid epidemic who will have to drive long distances to obtain their Cannabis medicine if a dispensary is not available in their area. Not to account for the Ohioans who are Medical Cannabis Patients and cannot drive themselves to a dispensary. Additionally, I am urging you to stop trying to cut our home grow rights in half as that also undermines the will of Ohioan voters and what we voted for regarding being able to cultivate our own Cannabis Medicine as outlined in Issue 2. Furthermore, Ohioans do not need to be criminalized for sharing their Cannabis with one another - do we do the same with Alcohol & Tobacco which is known to destroy lives and kill millions of Americans yearly? In light of all of the previous information, there are many scientific studies that prove that Cannabis does have antioxidant effects for its users as well as provides a myriad number of relief for many different ailments (<https://www.britannica.com/procon/medical-marijuana-debate>). On top of all of this, the DEA even recognizes that there have never been any overdose deaths from Cannabis ever recorded in the history of the DEA's existence. I voted for Issue 2 in November of 2023 because I wanted to be able to grow my own Medicine at home without having to rely on a dispensary and pay high prices (2x that of Michigan prices) for Cannabis products that I find relief from. Currently, Medical Cannabis products available in dispensaries are not affordable or priced sustainably for those who are economically disadvantaged and need this Medicine. I, myself, have found it difficult to afford my Cannabis Medicine at times (because insurance won't cover it) and I have a well paying day job. I also voted for Issue 2 to further free this plant medicine which has been stigmatized for far too long in our societies and governments. Being able to grow 12 Cannabis plants altogether in a household where myself and my fiancé reside is very important to me as I find the most relief from Rick Simpson Oil extract which takes a lot of plant material to make (1 pound per batch which will me last 2-3 months) when taking it for my ailments (PTSD, Insomnia, Anxiety and Stomach Issues). Cutting my cultivation rights, as well as millions of other Ohioans' cultivation rights, in half will only set me back further financially, physically, mentally, emotionally as well as not meet my needs as a Medical

Cannabis Patient. And if my needs aren't being met, I can only imagine the vast number of Patients across Ohio whose needs won't be met if Senate Bill 86 passes.

Outside of all of the points I have made in this testimony - there are a couple more things I'd like to close with:

-the majority of counties that voted yes for Issue 2 in Ohio were Republican and are represented by the very same individuals trying to overturn the will of the voters via Senate Bill 86. Which if you ask me, is a shame because these representatives were elected to help enforce the will of the people - not undermine it. Hopefully Ohioans are seeing this and will elect these extremist individuals out of power come next election.

-the very same people who are trying to tax a non-toxic substance which is helping millions and millions of people in our State are the very same people who eliminated the sales tax on gun purchases in Ohio recently. Guns kill on average 40-50 thousand people per year. There are no known cases of Cannabis overdose causing death and that information is per the DEA website (<https://www.dea.gov/factsheets/marijuana>). Do with that information what you will.

On behalf of all Ohioan voters - when the majority of us speak in an election - please listen to us. We unequivocally voted for Cannabis legalization in Ohio because we know of Cannabis and its benefits through our lived experiences. The will of a few individuals in Ohio Senate should never exceed with will of 57% of voters who participated in a Democratic election.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. DeSignore Jr