



## SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony, S.B. 55, 03.26.2025

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 55.

My name is Hannah Kubbins and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio (AFP – OH). Our organization, and its activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Accordingly, we support S.B. 55, which provides a long overdue update to Ohio law regarding OVI statutes in the era of legal adult-use cannabis use in our state.

As presented by Chairman Manning during his sponsor testimony, and by other stakeholders during hearings of a previous version of this bill – S.B. 26 - last session, the growing scientific consensus is that the mere presence of THC in a person's system is not an indication they are experiencing impairment at the time of a drug test. Even if a person consumed cannabis weeks prior to a drug test, because of the way our bodies metabolize it, it still shows up even though the impairing effect of the drug only lasts for hours.

Ohioans are now legally allowed to consume marijuana, yet Ohio law in its current form could cause consumers to be convicted of an OVI even if they are not presently under the influence.

Per its LSC analysis, the bill would update the revised code to reflect the science of impairment in a few ways, including:

- Removing the measurements of marijuana metabolites and measurements via a chemical test of a person's urine or blood for purposes of determining a per se violation of the prohibited concentration limits for marijuana.
- Increases the per se prohibited concentration limits for Delta 9 – THC as measured via a chemical test of a person's whole blood from two nanograms per milliliter to five nanograms per milliliter to determine a violation of OVI laws.
- Creates a new evidentiary standard through which a trier of fact may infer that a person is under the influence of marijuana if the person either

- Has a concentration of at least 25 nanograms of Delta 9 – THC per milliliter of the person's urine.
- Has a concentration of at least two but less than five nanograms of Delta 9 – THC per milliliter of the person's whole blood.

S.B. 55 strikes an important balance between maintaining public safety and recognizing the science of cannabis metabolization varies greatly person to person.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership on this issue and for the opportunity to offer testimony today. I'm happy to do my best to answer any questions that the committee may have.