

Good morning Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Kerry Cannon. I am a mother, Co-Director of The international Women's Cannabis Coalition, writer, and Cannabis advocate.

I strongly support House Bill 60.

As a Cannabis advocate, and patient, for the last 8 years, I've witnessed the life changing medicinal benefits Cannabis brings many. While my family is not directly affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, through my advocacy, I have witnessed the positive outcome medical Cannabis has brought to many patients on the Autism Spectrum. The improvement in the patient, also positively impacts their families, teachers, caregivers, and ultimately their community. As a researcher, and writer, I am aware of studies that have been done, **showing promising results of using medical Cannabis for treating ASD.**

**Pharmaceutical drugs aren't always safe or effective. For many, they are not finding pharmaceutical drugs to be effective at treating, or reducing, medical or behavioral issues stemming from ASD. Often the adverse effects of pharmaceutical drugs do more harm than good. Research published by Harvard's Center for Ethics, gives the statistics that show pharmaceutical drugs pose a major health risk with few advantages. Even properly prescribed drugs cause about 1.9 million hospitalizations a year. New drugs approved by the FDA have a 1:5 chance of causing serious reactions. About 128,000 people die from drugs prescribed to them every year, often taken as prescribed. Cannabis is often a safer, and more effective treatment than pharmaceutical drugs.**

[New Prescription Drugs: A Major Health Risk With Few Offsetting Advantages | Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics \(harvard.edu\)](#)

With not only anecdotal evidence, but studies showing Cannabis used to treat ASD being effective and beneficial, it makes sense to add ASD as a qualifying condition for Medical Cannabis in Ohio, You have the opportunity today to help reduce the suffering of others. I urge you to allow citizens in Ohio, on the spectrum, safe and legal access to a medicinal plant that just might improve their quality of life.

Thank you for your compassionate consideration on this matter.

Kerry Cannon

[Cannabis and autism: medical cannabis relieves symptoms in children \(healtheuropa.eu\)](#)

[Real life Experience of Medical Cannabis Treatment in Autism: Analysis of Safety and Efficacy | Scientific Reports \(nature.com\)](#)

[Boosting natural marijuana-like brain chemicals treats fragile X syndrome symptoms | UCI News | UCI](#)