

Representatives of Ohio House:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Kevin Levison and I am an Ohio MMJ patient. I strongly support HB60 which would have a major impact for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) patients. Ohio's amateurish cartel like OMMJ board have turned it down a couple of times, meanwhile the states of Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah & the Territory of Puerto Rico all have approved and included Autism Spectrum Disorder as a qualifying condition. Keep in mind not one ASD person has died from marijuana ever and they too need someone to speak up for them as they deserve to have the best healthcare available to them just like any regular person and approving HB60 would have this great impact to theirs and their family's lives.

I have seen the effects on what cannabis can do for a child with autism. I met a girl named Kara from one of the legal states I mentioned, who has a violent self-aggression autism disorder. Her parents especially her mom was one of the strongest people that I have ever met. I had trouble keeping my composure when I saw Kara punching herself in her face non-stop like a personal boxing match, it certainly brought tears to my eyes, and wonder what anyone can do to help her and her mom as Kara's condition weighs heavily on her family. It is just horrifying to see in person.

Kara causes self-inflicted injuries to herself, by punching, twisting her skin to hurt, pulling on her hair etc. until she possibly needs medical attention and it so dangerous and is so painful to watch, see and help stop it without also being hurt in the process. It's surreal at first sight when your friend is there with her daughter in this predicament. As a caring person you just wish there was something that you or someone could do in some way to help or stop it for her. Her mom must give her bear hugs to hold her off from the self-inflicted wounds and pain. Kara sometimes stops it herself but it's totally uncontrollable & they happen every day and sometimes they can go on for hours.

Just imagine one of your kids or grandchildren with this disorder and that there are no pharmaceuticals to help them at all. The doctor's practice prescribes hundreds of pills and they are given to Kara like they are candy. None of the pharmaceuticals work, but that's all a Doctor would do to help and give her. In time all those prescribed pills will end up doing more damage to another body organ which will cause other hidden and not needed health problems. Ohio is currently one of the states that will continue to feed Kara pills non-stop while this child and her

family will continue to go around circles wondering if there is any way out. It would be ridiculous & illogical that her and her mom would have to move out of the state they both lived in their entire life to obtain such help. It seems like déjà vu because Ohio was this way before the OMMJ program started.

We really all should be United and need to ask ourselves why we can't even unite by helping an innocent child dealing with this kind of disorder, when we all know that cannabis has never killed anyone, ever. So why don't we give them a chance? Keep in mind Cannabis is legal recreationally in 14 states, DC, Guam, Mariana Islands and there are many more to come. And we as patients must fight our legislation here for any medical help with this supposedly medical program? It is very expensive, there is no help with insurance and the quality of the product after 3 years is not even subpar. The labs have padded their numbers and it's been a disgrace. Patients are being shorted when purchasing at the dispensaries continuously and the LLC'S won't answer the patient's questions when asked. We as patients are getting worse quality but paying twice as much as many other states, no reciprocity with other states, but they keep telling patients the price is going down, but in fact it has gone up. You are asking medical patients that can't walk, that normally don't travel far because of such, to now in the heavy snow to travel all over the state, take a much bigger risk just to find help, considering many of us have stopped our regular prescribed medicine such as Opioids for this supposedly medical program and all of this what is provided during a pandemic.

I am a patient because when I was a child I was run over by a car. I almost died. I was in Columbus Children's Hospital for 2-months with many internal injuries and on morphine an entire month. I healed very slowly, but they explained someday that I might have hard times when you get older. They were right. I currently have an electrical stimulation unit running into my spine injecting a very high electrical shock 24/7 for the major nonstop charley horse type of pain that wraps around my half of my body and was prescribed Opioids that made me so sick when I took them, that I couldn't even manage my life. Cannabis has saved my life and I feel it is time for Cannabis to help save anyone who wants to use it to help them for whatever help they would need it for.

But now we must fight to get conditions such as autism spectrum disorder added with legislation of HB60. It's so amazing how many people are oblivious to Cannabis, when travelling places such as Michigan or anywhere out west or east, it certainly was everywhere. Here in Ohio it is a fight to just continue to get the same medicine from a dispensary that is nearby. Currently there is one dispensary in Ohio that only has 1-variety that has helped me in the past and unfortunately with the limited number of dispensaries I would have to travel two hours to go there and they won't hold any product for anyone except employees. Also, when I get there, it is quite likely to be completely sold out. So, this absurdity we as patients are fighting for. We need help with this broken-down system, and we must ask our house representatives for this and right now we need

Autism Spectrum Disorder to pass HB60 legislation. Just recently, on Feb 12, 2021 there was a published article about how Autistic Patients behavior Improved, here is the link about how “Cannabis Can Improve Behavioral Outcome for Autistic Patients, Another Study Shows”, by Chris Moore <https://merryjane.com/news/cannabis-can-improve-behavioral-outcomes-for-autistic-patients-another-study-shows>.

When Kara was finally given a high THC Cannabis vapor treatment, in 3-minutes she completely calmed down. Her mom said Cannabis has saved her daughter’s life and she has stated that it has prolonged her life. She also said that the entire family’s stressors have calmed down massively too, more happy faces and smiles. Quality of life came from cannabis for this family. This cannabis plant has healed and helped so many including me, therefore I am writing to you today about others needing help too as they all deserve to make their life better in every way. How many times does legislation need to hear that Cannabis has save someone’s life? One way or another this darkness has got to give!

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote YES on HB60 for this life-saving bill. Just remember every second counts to the people in with these conditions and would ask for an immediate Yes decision on HB60.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Kevin Levison