

## TESTIMONY

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Pricilla Lovine Harris. I am a director of the Sensible Movement Coalition. I strongly support Senate Bill 261 personally, as does the organization.

There hasn't been a lot of testimony regarding patient rights and access to medicine in our medical marijuana program. I would like to address these issues now.

When it comes to patient rights, the subject of employment protection needs to be considered, any other doctor prescribed medication is protected when it comes to gaining and maintaining employment. Medical Marijuana should be placed on the same level. In addition, housing should be protected in the same way. Ohio has a *MEDICAL* Marijuana program and cannabis should be treated the same as any other medicine.

Patient access has been limited by the small number of dispensaries, limited cultivation licenses and sizes, and lack of product. All of these have kept prices extremely high compared to neighboring states and the illicit market. Many people are unable to afford access to legal medicine under the program, and many patients have to decide between getting their state approved medicine and putting dinner on the table. This bill will go a long way towards improving patient access to medicine that not only treats the conditions for which it's prescribed, but in some cases, it's the only thing that works. All of this with few, if any, side effects.

I know that at this point, a limited homegrow provision is not included in this bill, but adding homegrow to Ohio's medical marijuana program would provide access to medicine for patients who otherwise would not have access to something they need and qualify for under the program.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this bill that goes a long way towards increasing patient access. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now take any questions you may have.