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TDCANN Institute  
Senate Bill 9  
Interested Party  
March 14, 2023**

**Chairman Rulli, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate General Government Committee, I am submitting this testimony for your review. I have been involved with drug policy reform for 12 years, on a statewide and national level.**

**I'd like to start by thanking Senator Huffman and Senator Schuring for Sponsoring SB9. It is important to update Ohio's medical cannabis program in the best interest of public health and safety, and specifically safety for Ohio's disabled patients. In Ohio, our disabled patients are defined under ORC Section 4112, the Civil Right Commission. Many of our medical cannabis patients are also defined under this section of the ORC.**

**I would like to make a recommendation for an addition to SB 9. Currently, there is not a licensure requirement for any healthcare professionals in Ohio to have Endocannabinoid System education. This is a biological system that most healthcare professionals do not have any education about, as the education, and CME/CE was not available while they were in medical or nursing school.**

**We have a medical cannabis program in Ohio, and common sense is that physicians and nurses are providing legal medical care to medical cannabis patients in Ohio. These vulnerable patients, who are defined under the Civil Rights Commission, have the right to have their general physicians, specialists, and emergency room physicians educated in a biological system being impacted by the use of cannabis.**

**My recommendation, in the best interest of public health and safety, is to direct the Medical Board and Nursing Board to require Endocannabinoid System education as a licensure requirement.**

**I would like to address the Kasich Medical Cannabis Oligarchy Business Model, also in the best interest of public health and safety.**

For safety reasons, we must focus on accessibility, affordability and accountability with our regulatory program.

Patients, statewide, are very vocal about the cost of their medical cannabis. The costs for many of these vulnerable patients, our family and neighbors, is astronomical. Many cannot afford the monthly costs. Perhaps lowering the licensing fees for the licensees would ultimately lead to the reduction of costs for patients. Additional licenses would increase the funds needed to efficiently run a robust Ohio medical cannabis program.

Many Ohio patients also have to travel a very long distance to acquire their medical cannabis. As a patient focused program, additional stores would ease this burden. Instead of attempting to reinvent the wheel, perhaps we should follow Ohio's current alcohol regulatory model. 477 stores - one for each county, and an additional store for each 30,000 people.

Accountability is also very important in this medical program. As a matter of public health and safety, lab testing should be verified by either the Ohio Attorney General's office, or Ohio's Department of Agriculture. This is a simple, inexpensive process that can, and will protect our most vulnerable patients.

Finally, these sentences are very difficult for me to write, as I have great respect for our government, studying Criminal Justice at the University of Dayton. I would like to bring to the General Government Committee's attention that last week, a major player in Ohio's medical cannabis program was found guilty of racketeering. I first met Matt Borges in 2011, and spent years educating him about the cannabis industry, in the best interest of public health and safety. I was shocked in 2015 when I was told about the Kasich Medical Cannabis Oligarchy Business Model, and immediately ended contact. Instead, I founded an organization to protect patients rights in an amendment to the constitution. When arrested, Mr Borges was the lobbyist for a medical cannabis business trade group representing licensees in Ohio. In full disclosure, additional names, associated with the Ohio Medical Cannabis program, have been mentioned in the press repeatedly, as participants in the affairs of First Energy, Householder, and Borges.

Knowing this information has been very difficult, as I am a patient advocate first.

As a reminder, Endocannabinoid System education for healthcare professionals is critical for Ohio citizen's public health and safety.

Thank you for your time. I am available via email for any questions.

Theresa Daniello

