

Dear Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Respected Members of the Health Committee –

On 4 Feb 21, Representatives Brent and Seitz produced HB60, legislation to add Autism as a qualifying condition for medical cannabis. I am writing to you to voice my support for a YES vote to add Autism Spectrum Disorder as a qualifying condition in Ohio. As an Ohio constituent, I am compelled to express direct support of Representative Brent/Seitz's cannabis bill.

There is substantial scientific evidence supporting the use of medical cannabis as a safe, viable treatment for autism spectrum disorder. There are several Ohio physicians and specialists who agree and have provided expert testimony on the matter.

<https://www.med.ohio.gov/.../Combined%20Subject%20Matter...>

Moreover, a bevy of states, including Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Texas, and the territory of Puerto Rico, have all permitted Autism as a qualifying condition for their medical cannabis programs, pediatric patients included. Other states such as California, Florida, Oklahoma, Oregon, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Washington DC all also recognize Autism as a debilitating condition and allow doctors to recommend medical cannabis.

A vote against adding this condition would restrict patients in severe need to discuss this option with their doctor. Please vote with a majority of the experts, and support the addition of Autism as a qualifying condition. I urge you to consider the evidence and will add Autism as a qualifying condition in Ohio.