

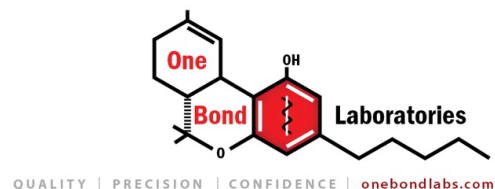
**Ohio Senate
General Government Committee
February 7, 2023
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 9**

Good afternoon, Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate General Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of laboratory requirements contained in Senate Bill 9 (SB 9). My name is Jared Henthorn, and I am the Chief Operating Officer of One Bond Laboratories, a licensed Medical Marijuana Control Program (MMCP) testing lab here in Columbus, Ohio. I am also Vice President of Operations and a Senior Industrial Hygienist at One Bond's parent company, S-E-A, Ltd. S-E-A has been providing forensic engineering, fire investigation, failure analysis, and analytical chemistry services for over 50 years. We perform product testing of everything from candles to surgical implants, for governmental agencies such as the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) and product manufacturers globally.

I want to begin by thanking the bill sponsors, Senators Huffman and Schuring, for including much needed internationally recognized standards for medical marijuana testing labs. Specifically, SB 9 establishes verified analytical methods and protocols to be used when testing cannabis for contaminants and concentration. While the Ohio Revised Code details which contaminants and respective limits labs must test for in the cannabis product, it **does not** require standards for testing methods. Current rules require labs to become International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 accredited, but this is a performance standard that only ensures labs follow their own methods and have an adequate quality control system in place.

When the legislation to legalize medical marijuana in Ohio was initially enacted, national testing standards for cannabis were in their infancy. As states began legalizing the use of medical and recreational marijuana, two leading international organizations that develop technical standards to ensure safe and reliable testing methods of materials and products (the Association of Official Analytical Chemists [AOAC International] and American Society for Testing and Materials [ASTM International]) began producing verified and reliable methods for the testing and analysis of cannabis and cannabis products.

As the bill currently reads, a licensed MMCP testing lab must comply with specific AOAC "and" ASTM standards. One Bond would encourage changing the SB 9 language from "and" to read "or". We also recommend removing the specific itemized methods required by each organization, as some are duplicative, and there must be means for inclusion as these organizations develop and improve standard methods.



Over the last two weeks One Bond has met, as a group, with each of the other MMCP licensed medical marijuana testing labs in the State of Ohio and have come to the consensus that we would all also be open to adding other nationally or internationally recognized method development associations and associated methods. The labs of the State are also in favor of adding two staff experts in microbiology and chemistry, similar to the requirements of a MMCP testing lab director, to the Ohio Department of Commerce MMCP to allow the State to technically evaluate laboratory methods and provide general oversight of the laboratory testing program.

Ohio's current absence of testing methodology standards allows for a system where labs can produce inaccurate or imprecise results. Unregulated testing methods have led to inconsistent results amongst labs in other states. This is a significant patient safety issue. As you can imagine, the accuracy and repeatability of contamination analysis and THC concentration are vitally important for consumer confidence in the program. We have all seen the headlines regarding recalls due to microbial contamination and THC inflation.

Without standardized testing methods, including oversight by a chemist and microbiologist in place within the MMCP, Ohio may create an environment that allows for manipulation of testing and results shopping that negatively affects patients and the industry as a whole. Again, One Bond is very support of SB 9 establishing the methodology that testing labs must use to conduct testing and analysis. SB 9 does not impact the types of contaminants or permissible limits the Ohio MMCP requires labs to test for in the cannabis product. In summary, the State determined which contaminants to test for, and it should also define how the test should be conducted to ensure precise, accurate, and reliable results to provide safety for patients in the State of Ohio.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today. I am happy to answer any questions.

Jared Henthorn
Chief Operating Officer
One Bond Laboratories