

Testimony for 3/14/2023

Ohio Senate Bill 9 Amendment to the Ohio Medical Cannabis Program

Anthony D Riley

5252 Jameson Drive

Columbus Ohio, 43232

614-401-4872

Email Address: ohiocannabislive@gmail.com

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the General Government Committee. Thank you for allowing my proponent testimony today for Ohio Senate Bill 9 of the 135th General Assembly, which would revise the current Ohio Medical Marijuana law in Ohio.

Hello my name is Anthony D Riley

Before I discuss the reasons why I support Ohio Senate Bill 9, I would like to share some personal information. I was brutally assaulted on my 15th birthday and suffered a traumatic brain injury. I now suffer from severe pain and anxiety, which makes it extremely difficult for me to be here today.

I would also like to share my success story. I started using Ohio Medical Cannabis on the first day of sales, 1/16/2019, and the first night I noticed the difference in quality from the legacy market. I slept a lot better that night. Over time, I began to purchase more Medical Cannabis, and before I knew it, I was making educational videos about cannabis. I became the founder of Ohio Cannabis Live, an organization that educates and informs people about the Ohio Medical cannabis program and cannabis legalization in general.

I was able to be around people again and was able to reduce the amount of opioid pain medication I was taking. Fast forward to today, I am not taking any opioids, I have my own small business, and I am living a better life. However, one of the major challenges for me as a patient and an advocate for other patients is the high cost we are paying for Ohio medical cannabis products that actually help us feel better.

I would like to highlight four key reasons why I support Ohio Senate Bill 9:

Product Cost: Many products in our program are overpriced, especially processed goods such as edibles and concentrates. Ohio Senate Bill 9 would reduce the cost of these types of products by giving standalone processors a license to cultivate. While there is opposition to this proposal, I believe that it will ultimately benefit patients by providing them with more affordable options for their treatment.

Product Quality: Patients want high-quality products, including those with higher THC limits. Ohio Senate Bill 9 would increase the THC limit from 77 percent to 90 percent, which is more in line with neighboring states and will help keep patients from seeking treatment outside of Ohio.

Access: Ohio Senate Bill 9 would expand the qualified conditions for medical cannabis treatment, allowing more people to benefit from this program. This will help attract new patients to the program, and in turn, increase demand for new and affordable product options for treatment.

Oversight: Ohio Senate Bill 9 would allow the Department of Commerce to manage the Ohio Medical Cannabis Program and establish a new advisory board or commission that patient advocates could be a part of. This will allow patients to address concerns with lawmakers and ensure that the program is effectively meeting the needs of its patients.

In closing, I urge you to support Ohio Senate Bill 9 and its proposed changes to the Ohio Medical Cannabis Program. Patients like myself need more affordable and accessible options for our treatment, and we believe that these changes will help us achieve that goal. Thank you for your time, and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Anthony D Riley
Founder
Ohio Cannabis Live
Mobile: 614-401-4872