

Good afternoon Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring (Huffman), Ranking Member DeMora and members of the General Government Senate Committee, Senator Gavarone and McColley.

I want to express my gratitude for a voice for the people with Senator DeMora.

My name's Julie Doran, I'm with Ohio Friends & Family, Meigs Fertilizer and Ohio Hemp Farmers Cooperative. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

I'm concerned with the proposed changes to the adult use program (State Passed Issue 2) contained in HB 86.

You claim that you don't want the black market in this arena, but the proposed changes do in fact promote the black market. Raising the taxes would only help the black market. The way you're proposing the funds is not righteous or what the voters approved.

You want to eliminate homegrow. THIS IS IN FACT WHAT VOTERS WERE VOTING ON, AND THEY KNEW IT!!! This is like spitting in the face of your voters. - Plain and simple. We need homegrow for the people who can't afford the outrageous tax you are proposing and for the current prices of cannabis of the legal medical market. Patients currently on our medical program can't afford prices now, do you think the taxes will help with this? People deserve the right to grow their own medicine in the comfort of their own homes affordably. We currently have 41 individual cities and municipalities that have de-criminalized cannabis all together. Here we are trying to help the law enforcement to respond to more serious crimes, other than cannabis.

The licensure is unjust and unfair, giving current medical license holders priority on a second license (some of these license holders already own multiple license within the program.) This is continuing the current monopoly we have within the medical program. Did you know that around 80% of our medical marijuana operations are owned and operated by OUT OF STATE corporations. This legislation would be handing our whole state's cannabis business and industry to out of state investors and corporations. None of the profit from those business will go towards Ohio or our economy.

Did you know that this legislation is also banning the sale of full-spectrum hemp products in the state? The hemp industry is already devastated enough in Ohio. How do I know? Because I've farmed 5 acres of hemp 3 of the past 4 years in Ohio. I also founded and am President of the Ohio Hemp Farmers Cooperative. Our regulations in the hemp program have brought our Ohio hemp industry to a screeching halt. This would shut it down completely. While these same products can be sold nationwide, and online legally.

Ultimately, the voters have passed this Issue 2 how they wanted it. The General Assembly has had a long enough time and had several chances to initiate their version, but never could come to conclusion. We handed it to the voters to decide, and they did.

There has been too much included in this (165 page) bill that has been unannounced. When I asked a senator sitting on your committee what they were changing in the hemp portion. They stated that they were unaware. I think there's a lot included in this bill that we are unaware of.

The future of Ohio's cannabis industry is in the hands of you five senators. I ask that you don't change the perimeters around Issue 2 included in HB86. I hope you can look past your personal opinion and money-grabbing techniques, and please listen to the citizen voters in this matter.

This is a seed-bearing plant put here on Earth by God and I don't believe we should have any right to govern it!

Thank you,