



Medical Marijuana Task Force
March 31, 2016
Phil Parker
Chair – Ohio Metro Chambers of Commerce

Good afternoon Chairman Schuring and members of the Medical Marijuana Task Force. My name is Phil Parker, I am President & CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and I am here today as the Chairman of the Ohio Metro Chambers of Commerce coalition, which includes the major metro chambers of commerce in Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown, and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Collectively, our coalition represents THE Ohio business community through our collective membership of over 40,000 Ohio employers and more than 2 million employees.

In November 2015, the Ohio business community stood together and voiced our concerns for Issue 3 and its potential impact on Ohio employers and the business community. As Ohio is now considering the potential for medical marijuana legalization, the business community would like to relay our recommendations regarding the proper safeguards that must be put in place to protect the policies, sustainability and safety of Ohio's job creators.

Please note, that my testimony today and these recommendations should not be construed as an endorsement of medical marijuana in Ohio. We believe that as Ohio considers any legislation, ballot issues, rules or local ordinances potentially legalizing and governing the use of medical marijuana, the provisions we are introducing today, at a minimum, must be included to protect the economic vitality of Ohio. I cannot stand before you today and tell you what our position on those policy proposals may be, as individual medical marijuana policy proposals will be reviewed by our respective chambers based on their own merits. However, I can tell you that if the rights, policies, procedures, liabilities and autonomy of Ohio's employers is threatened, we will have serious concerns.

Included in my testimony today are recommendations for this task force and any organization in Ohio to consider as you and others are reviewing options for medical marijuana. We are submitting specific language today for your consideration that includes the following:

- Defends an employer's HR policies, drug screening policies and procedures.

- Safeguards the health, safety and well-being of employers, employees and customers.
- Protects an employer against costly litigation arising from employees that are impaired or using medical marijuana.
- Shields Ohio's Workers' Compensation system from being burdened by individuals that are injured while impaired or using medical marijuana.
- Maintains that individuals discharged from employment because of policy violations will not be eligible to receive Ohio unemployment benefits.

These protections and provisions are the foundation to ensuring that Ohio businesses can operate in an environment that supports job growth and economic success.

As you consider any action this task force may or may not take in regards to medical marijuana, I encourage this body to seriously consider these recommendations from the Ohio business community.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.