

Nicholas Reinecker

HB2490

Opponent

01/25/2024

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Chair: Rep. Stephen Owens

If a 20year old man in Kansas is caught by law enforcement with tobacco, he could be charged with a tobacco infraction and fined \$25. If a juvenile is caught by law enforcement with an 'eighth' of cannabis he or she could be adjudicated for a Class B misdemeanor. This juvenile, not wanting to go to 'juvy' is nudged to do the 'treatment' route. During his case length he decides he is not liking the side effects of the pharmaceuticals he has been put on, nor does he have any relatable opportunities in Cognitive Behavior Therapy, using Thinking for a Change etc. and so he decides to possess and consume cannabis again. To my understanding, if this juvenile is not able to pass a urine test for cannabis metabolites, his case length could be indefinitely extended, regardless of incrementalism or caps. Is this how we are defining justice? Another life micromanaged and marginalized by government burden and overreach, chemical restraint, and an endless monthly payment plan. The lack of referenced evidence-based programs and consistent use of risk assessment tools that are relevant to all cultural aspects of individual Kansans complicates this situation even more.

I am against extending case length limits. I am against criminalizing this sort of behavior. I am against the government trying to be a dad. Growing up, I was told the purpose of our Constitutional Republic government was to defend individual's natural rights, restrain evildoers, and foster an environment for private economic growth. The use of force, prosecution, detainment, arrest, civil asset forfeiture, probation, and jail time for violations of the Controlled Substances Act is condoned by this legislature. Do these actions represent evildoer restraint, fostering an environment for private economic growth, or defense of an individual's natural rights?

Finally, I am for a Controlled Substances Act and I believe a hard on crime approach is better than a cycle of "don't do it again, or you will be locked up" attitude where the use of taxpayer money is being spent on cycles of therapy and risky MAT (medication assisted treatment) and where heart change is substituted with temporary behavior change that facilitates cycles of criminality, hopelessness, trauma and harm.