

Date of Testimony:

- 3/15/2023

Bill Number & Topic Title:

- **SB135:** Creating the medical cannabis regulation act to regulate the cultivation, processing, distribution, sale and use of medical cannabis

Disposition: Proponent, Opponent, or Neutral:

- Proponent

State one of the following- ORAL in-person testimony, ORAL virtual testimony, WRITTEN-ONLY Testimony:

- ORAL in-person testimony

Name of conferee, cell/text number, and email contact information:

- Daniel Shafton, (913)-488-4600, DShafton888@Gmail.com

Name of interest represented (self or name of organization):

- Kansas Cannabis Chamber of Commerce (KCCC)

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Daniel Shafton, I am the president of the Kansas Cannabis Chamber of Commerce (KCCC), and I am writing as a proponent for SB135 in support of the passage of medical marijuana in Kansas. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Chairman and each member of this committee for taking the time to become educated on this issue and for introducing legislation that would create strong patient outcomes and a robust industry that would bring with it new jobs and revenue to the state.

As many of you are new to this committee, I wanted to take a moment to quickly outline the political journey that medical marijuana has been through in our statehouse that has led to SB135. While SB135 may be a new bill, the language within the legislation is based on EIGHT years of hearings, more than TEN versions of medical cannabis legislation, and well over 100 hours of testimony, presentations, demonstrations, meetings, and bill working.

The beginning of the work that most directly led to the contents of SB135 started in 2020 with the introduction of HB2740 by Rep. Barker in the House Federal & State Affairs committee. After two sessions of hearings, testimony, debate, and work, HB2740 became House Substitute for SB158 and in 2021 passed on the house floor by a vote of 79-42.

Last year the Senate picked up the baton and began learning the topic and working SB158. The Senate Federal & State Affairs committee held multiple private and public work sessions, hearings, testimonies, and even tours of licensed cannabis facilities in neighboring states. SB158 passed out of committee and made it all the way to conference committee. When the session concluded only the House had time to defend its position in conference committee and thus the bill died.

During the off-session, an interim committee was formed to continue the conversation, research, and work on the topic of medical marijuana. MULTIPLE FULL DAYS of hearings were held and a 72-point memorandum based on those hearings was created. Using SB158 as

a base, and incorporating the memorandum, a new bill was born, SB135, the bill sitting in front of you today.

I thank all legislators who have been involved in this process over the last several years for their desire to get this “right” and their willingness to invest a significant amount of time in learning the topic and crafting strong legislation. I have heard the concerns and requests to go slow and have all the information needed to do this “right” from the opponents and members of the committee this year, and for the last four consecutive years leading up to this session. And while I understand there are new members of this committee who have not been here for the work that has led up to this point, I can confidently assure you any information or perspectives needed to make strong legislation have already been reviewed and all of that work and information is what makes up the language of this bill.

If every year we must go through this process for the new members of the committee, this bill, nor any bill on the topic, will ever have a chance at passage. While there are many factors you must consider when supporting legislation, the most important consideration is always, does this reflect the majority opinion of the constituents of my district? ALL available polling data shows a MINIMUM of 60% approval for medical marijuana in EVERY senate district. We understand some of you may personally oppose this and we respect that position. Having said that, we kindly ask for the opportunity for the hard work of your colleagues and constituents to be discussed by the body as a whole. If you would like to see the results or hear more of the details of who was polled, please do not hesitate to reach out. We want each of you to feel confident about the topic, the bill, and the popularity of medical marijuana with your constituency.

Finally, as the voice of the states only cannabis business/industry association and our nearly 100 businesses members who support and hope to operate in or around this industry, I want to make one thing abundantly clear. We support SB135 as written today. Sure, we could nitpick and amend until the cows come home, but the industry has gotten together and is in agreement. SB135 provides a safe and strong starting point for our state, it's patients, and the industry and that's all we could ever ask for.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for your time, hard work, and commitment to good legislation. I will remain available for questions throughout the two-day hearing and will be available within the walls of the capitol building for further questions, and requests for data. Additionally, I can make myself available for in-person and virtual meetings at a moment's notice whether that be today or next year. My number one priority, and the number one priority of the Chamber, is to provide education and resources to help our elected officials make the most informed decision possible. Please don't hesitate to use us as a resource.

Cheers,

- Daniel Shafton