

March 13, 2023
Bill number: HB 135
Proponent Medical Cannabis
Written Testimony Only
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Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am a nurse with 40 years of nursing experience with the last 8 years being spent as a cannabis nurse. I am the Vice President of the Kansas Cannabis Coalition, co-founder of Kansas Nurses for Medical Cannabis, and an active member of two national cannabis nurse organizations the American Cannabis Nurses Association and Cannabis Nurses Network. I also co-own a cannabis education company Green Healing Solutions, LLC. Cannabis nurses are solidly science based and there are thousands of us across the nation. Please rest assured that we do not believe cannabis use is the answer to every illness, nor is it something that can or should be used by everyone. It has been very concerning listening to opponent testimony that only focuses on one plant cannabinoid (THC), adult use (recreational) issues, Illicit (black market) concerns, fear mongering, and prohibition disinformation. Science has long proved that the cannabis plant is an herb with over 500 constituents made up of cannabinoids, terpenes and flavonoids. It also supports that the reason this plant is so healing is that ALL the constituents used together activate our endocannabinoid system using the entourage effect promoting healing.

Moving forward I would ask you to consider the following **science based** facts.

- Herbal products DO NOT work like pharmaceuticals. There is no “one size fits all dose” because we are all unique in our body make up and tolerance to substances. *Comparison-Herbal vs synthetic medicine. **Pharmaceutical drugs are specific in their actions and targeting of pathologies whereas herbals can have a broad range of effects on the physiological system.***
- Cannabis has always been medicinal and was in the US pharmacopeia listed as a medication starting in the mid 1800’s. It was prescribed by physicians for 100 common illnesses. Pharmaceutical companies grew, manufactured cannabis products and sold it. Cannabis was removed **against the advice of the American Medical Association.**
- Cannabis is an **herb**. It is important to remember that **herbal supplements are not subject to regulation by the FDA and therefore have not been tested in an FDA-approved clinical trial to prove their effectiveness in the treatment or management of medical conditions.** Herbal preparations do come under scrutiny however if problems come up after marketing.
- THC is just one of the over 100 cannabinoids in a cannabis plant. A lot of cannabis plants are THC dominate but **not all** are. There are over 400 other plant components that will be included in whole plant preparations of cannabis. The entourage effect happens when we ingest herbal preparations. There are healing advantages to whole plant products including using different cultivar. (plant types) Finding the cultivar that helps your symptoms is often trial and error. **This is expected and normal when you use herbs!**

- THC can of course be concentrated. We know this can be problematic but for some patient illnesses and conditions concentrates are needed. **Medical program patients are supervised when they use cannabis, unlike unsupervised use in states with adult use laws.**
- The goal of medical use is to NOT be impaired but mitigate or stop symptoms. Patients do this several different ways like using small doses several times a day. This is called micro-dosing and they are not impaired.
- **THCA** the acid or raw form of THC **is NOT IMPAIRING!** Ingesting THCA in it's raw or non-decarboxylated form offers different mechanisms of action than THC. Patients using raw THC are not getting "high."
- Science clearly supports that THC metabolites in blood does not denote a person's impairment. There are a lot of factors to be considered when talking about lab values and how "impaired" a person is. You have to understand active THC vs inactive or metabolized THC. Making a blanket statement that cannabis was responsible for anything is not accurate just because metabolites were present.
- Recent studies **do not** support the following:
 1. Teen use will increase with a medical cannabis program.
 2. People who use cannabis will become psychotic.
 3. Motor vehicle crashes increase due to medical cannabis use.

I urge you to consider that not all information given by opponents is factual. The absurdity of being likened to a communist supporter by Brian Serber during the last opponent testimony is a good example of this. So much of his testimony was not relevant to a medical cannabis program but referenced adult use, program monitoring problems, and criminal activity not related to medical cannabis use by patients. Many thousands of Kansans are currently using cannabis medically and it is time to make it legal for them to do so. We have had years of hearings, presentations on program management, safe use, and growing a new industry. What we have forgotten about is who we are doing this for, what the majority of Kansans want and how having a controlled program will benefit the state. Kansans do not need or want government mandates forbidding access to a healing herb. Prohibition has never worked, is not working now and I urge you to support patients and pass this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Kumberg RN, CMT

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