

**Proponent of Medical Cannabis-written testimony**

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**Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Walter Rausch. I am a 66 year old retired telecommunications engineer and serial inventor originating or contributing to over 50 US Patents, currently living in Olathe, KS.

Four years ago, I developed an aggressive cancerous tumor in my neck that required immediate surgery followed by extensive radiation treatment.

The surgery and radiation have left me with chronic pain in my neck. During a trip to Colorado, at the suggestion of friends with similar issues, I tried medical grade cannabis salves at the site of the pain and discovered complete relief for almost 10 hours! It was much better than the opiates I had been prescribed, whose side effects often prevented me from working. The non-THC containing CBD products currently available in Kansas are not as effective.

Please consider the needs of post-surgical cancer patients such as myself during your deliberations regarding these products. I can vouch for their efficacy in my case. They are cheaper and safer than opiates, and they certainly do not "alter" or impair my capabilities as opiates do.

For those who may have "moral" objections to the use of these products, I would advise them not to use them, but please allow their legal use for individuals with legitimate medical reasons! I find such "moral" objections specious in the face of the legal availability of alcohol and tobacco products that have no medical benefits and definite negative side-effects. I would further point out that this legislative body has recently allowed Sports Betting, with the known addictive side-effects of gambling and long-term negative impacts to families.

For those concerned about cannabis products being a "gateway" to other drugs, please consider that opiates are readily documented as leading to the abuse of other drugs. Many chronic pain sufferers in my situation are only offered opiates as a solution today.

My radiation oncologist has indicated that he would prescribe medical cannabis products for me, if they were legal. His only condition was that I not smoke or vape them.

Please find a way to make access to medical cannabis products legal for patients such as myself, to help restore our quality of life.