

Date: March 14, 2023

Bill # SB135
Proponent
Ann M. Reddy

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ann Reddy and I am writing in support of medical marijuana in Kansas.

I believe it is time for Kansas to legalize medical marijuana. Several of my family members suffer from health issues that could be helped by it.

Glaucoma runs in our family and my mother is mostly blind from it now. It has been shown that marijuana lowers eye pressure which helps protect the optic nerve. Now my sisters are showing early signs of glaucoma, if they had access to medical marijuana, it may help slow the progression of the disease.

My elderly mother suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and chronic pain from that affliction. She is using the maximum amount of opioid pain killers now to deal with the pain. Marijuana has been shown to reduce the need for addictive pain killers. I wish she had the option to use a non-addictive medication to give her a better quality of life.

I suffer from Restless Legs Syndrome, which severely impacts sleep quality, and people with this affliction have a higher risk for suicide because of the sleep deprivation and depression. Believe me, I have been there... Most medications have side effects and lose potency over time, leading many to avoid them in an effort to try natural remedies which mostly don't work. What is life without good sleep?

I had the opportunity to try THC edibles in a neighboring legalized state, and I was able to sleep well for the first time in so long and there were no side effects. I have heard from other RLS sufferers that their symptoms are eased and sleep has improved with the use of marijuana. For a disease with no current cure, managing the symptoms is the best we can ask for.

Legalizing marijuana in Kansas could transform my life and the lives of my family members. Other states are having success with it, I wish Kansas would think more progressively as well.

Lastly, having a farming background and having great concern for rural communities, I believe legalization has the potential to add revenue streams to farmers and local areas. I love Kansas and want to see the people succeed and have access to the latest technologies and innovations and medical marijuana is on that list.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ann Reddy