

Hello, my name is Kirk Snavely, from Lawrence, KS. I support legalizing medical marijuana in Kansas with a clean bill.

The use of medical marijuana is currently a criminal offense in Kansas.

This amounts to a criminalization of medical care for people with chronic pain, such as cancer patients and those with PTSD, where medical marijuana is often the only medication that does not produce serious side effects. Kansas is only one of three states with no legal access to marijuana.

Unlike the current version of SB 135, a clean bill would provide equitable medical marijuana access, by:

- Protecting patients from discrimination
- Using a tiered licensing system for more equitable access to enterprise
- Reinvesting in the communities that have been devastated by the War on Drugs. The criminalization of marijuana in general has disproportionately affected black Kansans, who are four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white Kansans despite similar rates of use.

Monetary benefits of legalizing medical marijuana equitably include:

- Bringing in millions of dollars in state revenue that could be used for roads, schools and safety
- Creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs
- Saving tax money currently spent on policing marijuana arrests, adjudicating marijuana possession and incarceration for possession