

March 16, 2023

Bill 135

Opponent

Donna Lippoldt

Culture Shield Network - Executive Director

Senator Thompson, and Senate Committee for Fed & State,

Culture Shield Network has existed since Jan. 2011, The main focus of this organization is to protect and pray for families in Kansas. I testified last fall and have done much more research since then.

We really need to look no further than our neighboring states to know we must not legalize marijuana here in Kansas.

The black-market issue in Oklahoma is out of control. The word is out that Oklahoma has people arriving from across the country and setting up shop. Citizens were told that by legalizing it would detour the drug cartel, and that violence and crime would not come. Quite the opposite has happened. Foreign nationals are buying up land and drug traffickers are exploiting laws and threatening public safety. Four people were found dead on a Marijuana farm in December.

Nearly 10% of Oklahomans population now have "medical" marijuana cards making Oklahoma's pot program the largest in the country on a per capita basis.

**There are more than 9,000 grow operations in Oklahoma while California, the world's biggest legal cannabis market, has about 6,000.**

There are 47 pot shops in Ardmore (population 25,000) On a recent raid 27,000 plants were discovered with a street value of \$50 million. 45 workers living on the property were living in horrible conditions. Human trafficking is going on along with money laundering according to Carter County Sheriff Chris Bryant. The farmers spoke mandarin.

WIBW reported Monday that Kansas will be losing out on money and jobs. We, the citizens of Kansas do not want addicted citizens paying out taxes, just like we didn't want addicted gamblers adding to our coffers. It's shameful and embarrassing.

You have been given information on increased suicides, increased addiction crisis and Overdoses, Homelessness, Black Market, Crime, Fatalities from traffic deaths attributed to Marijuana and children getting ahold of what they thought was candy by negligent parents who use. Some have died.

<https://poppot.org/marijuana-legalization-is-wrong/marijuana-related-child-deaths/>

You might say, "Oh, Kansas will do it better. The increase in social costs will offset any profit. Doubling the staff at KBI, prosecuting cases, but most of all any even one death at the hands of your vote. It's simply not worth it.

I would conclude by saying, "There is no right way to do the wrong thing." Please vote NO!

Respectfully,  
Donna Lippoldt

