

From: cheryl@medcankan.org
To: [Debbie Bartuccio](#)
Subject: Proponent , HB2330
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Ms Bartuccio,

Below is the first draft of my intended oral testimony in the hearing of HB2330. If I don't run out of time I also wish to submit written testimony.

Good afternoon. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify here today on the health benefits of cannabis/marijuana.

I'd like to tell you about our family situation. Three years ago we moved our daughter—Catherine or Cat—and her two youngest children in with us. After a few weeks of adjustment, we were able to establish a fairly harmonious household despite the fact that our daughter has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder and other emotional difficulties.

Her 12-year-old son is afflicted with ADHD and ODD (oppositional defiance disorder)—which I had never before heard of and wish I never had. This child was born questioning and defying authority and lacking impulse control. Even so, we love him and want only the best for him, as any grandparent would.

Our shakily harmonious life went on as usual until one evening when our daughter was in Wichita (we live in outside Sedgwick County) and as a favor to a seriously ill relative picked up the pound of cannabis that would have been about a three-month supply for the patient, who after years of illness and medical treatment had found his best relief with cannabis therapy.

Before she got home with it disaster struck and Cat went to jail. As a result, she is on probation (community corrections) and can no longer use her most effective medication.

Cat has always been very bright, entertaining and seriously funny. Everywhere she went, people loved her —although she has very little love for herself.

Cat is a warm, wonderful, loving mother —even though her son often drives her to her wits' end and they end up in a shouting match as a result of their individual afflictions. Obviously, our household isn't quite so harmonious at these times, but all in all, we felt very blessed.

Now that Cat is on probation and in a treatment program, off cannabis, and back on her pharmaceuticals life isn't quite so great. My daughter has become a flat, lifeless, emotionless stick figure. She seems much more intoxicated--all the time--than either of my alcoholic husbands ever did--both killed at a young age by their drug of choice.

Something unexpected has happened. When Cat reported to the local treatment facility and was interviewed by ----- she was amazed when, after the interview, she was told they were going to work with her as hard as possible to get her obligation to the state fulfilled so she could soon get back to the medicine that worked best for her. What a pleasant surprise!
(Actually, several studies abroad have indicated that cannabis is possibly the best

treatment yet found for bipolar disorder. I cannot argue with that, and I am looking forward to getting my real child back as soon as possible. And her children need their real mother.)

With great respect,

-- cheryl riley

cheryl riley, Voluntary director
[Kansas Medical Cannabis Network](#)
Potwin, KS 67123
620-752-3280

In a civilized society, seeking a better quality of life should not be a crime.