

Hello My Name is Jason Selmon, Chairperson of the Kannabis Project. The Kannabis Project is a state-wide effort to organize grass-roots support for reform to marijuana laws in Kansas—and we have a lot of support! As do, the many other pro-marijuana groups in our state full of committed, compassionate people dedicated to medicinal cannabis in our state. We are here in support of HB 2330. The amount of support for medical cannabis in Kansas is strong, growing, and widely discussed. Every day, I am contacted by people with an illness that they know would be relieved with cannabis. They just want their quality of life back and are sick of the adverse effects sustained by the prescription pills they are forced to take.

Recently Dr. Eric Voth wrote an editorial in which he attempted to define the myths of medical pot. I'll have to mention that not many people, among the hundreds who responded in the comment thread, sided with his opinion. Dr. Voth's agenda is not quality, patient care so much as it is in keeping patient care in the hands of medical/pharmaceutical industry. In one sentence he said medical cannabis doesn't work and then in the next sentence, remind us the active ingredients are available in pill form? Dr. Voth, may be a good, expert witness but his opinion is widely disputed and the voices of people with real pain deserve your ear.

Passing HB 2330 would have a positive economic impact in our state. In a recent article by CNN Money it was estimated that Kansas would make \$6.6 million dollars in sales tax alone not including application fees from dispensaries, growers, distributors and product manufactures. There are many ways to administer cannabis other than smoking it. Food products, beverages, candy, vaporizing, creams and salves just to name a few. All of these various products have potential economic benefits for Kansas.

I hope you are aware that our neighboring state Colorado passed medical cannabis, and among the many reported benefits, it has generated \$8.6 million in application fees since 2007. In fiscal year 2011 the state made \$5.2 million in sales tax and they estimate \$8.2 million in sales tax revenue for 2012. Colorado Governor Bill Ritter credits medical marijuana revenues for helping to balance the state budget last year.

Finally, a considerable body of data shows that no state with a medical marijuana law has experienced an increase in youth marijuana use since their law's enactment. All have reported overall decreases of more than the national average decreases -- exceeding 50% in some age groups -- strongly suggesting that enactment of state medical marijuana laws actually decrease its availability to teenagers.

Seventeen other states and the District of Columbia have enacted legislation to provide medical cannabis as a treatment option and it is time for Kansas to give serious consideration and legitimate exploration to medical cannabis. This issue is becoming increasingly main stream with many other states considering similar legislation. Kansans overwhelmingly support HB 2330 and want the legislature to take action on this issue in 2012.

So, in light of Dr. Voth's inevitable testimony—please get a second opinion! Or get a couple thousand of them from real people suffering from a wide-variety of debilitating diseases, or upstanding, everyday citizens who want to see a change, or the many other medical and legal professionals who support HB 2330. We appreciate the opportunity to share information with you about this very important topic and we are requesting the committee WORK HB 2330 in this year's session. We are asking the House Health and Human Services Committee to debate this bill and vote! Kansans have spoken and we want to know where you stand—please vote yes on HB2330 and send it to the House floor.