



To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo, Director of Government Affairs

Date: March 12, 2019

Re: HB 2244; allowing for the medical use of cannabidiol

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide in opposition to HB 2244, allowing for the medical use of cannabidiol. HB 2244 establishes that cannabidiol with up to 5% of tetrahydrocannabinol may be used to treat certain medical conditions and provides legal protections for patients receiving such treatment. While we appreciate the sensitivity around this subject and the intent of such legislation, we do not support legislation that undermines patient protections by circumventing Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval required for the legal medical use and prescription of drugs.

Kansas physicians believe the best avenue for protecting patient safety is through scientific evidence based research, education and training. Cannabidiol has not been clinically proven to have effective medical use at this time. Until the federal government schedules marijuana and its derivatives differently so that it can undergo more testing and evaluated for potential medical use, we cannot support legalizing it under medical auspices. The Kansas Medical Society supports the FDA process for all drugs and does not support legislating medical practice or prescriptive authority without demonstrated scientific clinical efficacy of such drugs.

Further, marijuana and its derivatives are not standardized in purity, dosage, or consistently recognized for specific contraindications. There is not clinical data around its efficacy or potential unintended impact on other health conditions.

HB 2244 puts physicians in an unfortunate position of being asked to recommend or provide something without clinical value – something that contradicts the basis of medical standards and sets a precedent for legislating medical practice. We respectfully request your opposition to the advancement of HB 2244. Thank you.