

The Capitol Lobby Group

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Kevin A. Barone

Sept 16, 2020

Re: Special Committee on Economic Recovery
– Economic benefit of Hemp / Medical Cannabis

Chairwoman, committee members, I want to thank you for allowing me to talk to you about two topics that can provide new economic benefits for the state of Kansas. I am Kevin Barone, I represent Farmers for Alternative Crop Expansion (Ks FACE), and I will be briefly talking about the support for the Kansas industrial hemp farming program. The second topic, the real economic potential of medicinal cannabis will be brought to you by Erin Montroy from a new group to our state, the Kansas Cannabis Business Assoc.

When it comes to the Industrial Hemp program, Kansas has some conflicts in the law that are truly limiting the economic benefits for the farmers and the state. As most of you probably know, CBD is one of the main products being made from Industrial Hemp. However, states that allow the selling of the flower from hemp have seen strong returns for the farmers, processors and the states bottom line.

Then correcting a conflict in our laws will help. The state allows Industrial Hemp to be grown, keeping in mind the Federal definition of industrial hemp is that the hemp has less than .3% THC, however the state law requires 0% THC. That conflict limits the farmers, the processors and the state from benefiting economically as much as it could.

Lastly, the Feds have removed Industrial Hemp (less than .3% THC) from the drug schedule and Kansas should as well. SB449, which had hearings on the last day available of the 2020 session ran out of time to be worked in committee was a bill to do that specifically. The hope of working it later was lost because, as we all know, of a little thing called Covid-19. SB449 basically removed industrial hemp, plants having less than .3% THC, from the Kansas drug schedule, in the exact same way as the feds did, so there was no confusion. I have attached a copy to the back of my testimony.

I will now turn the discussion over to Erin Montroy of the KCBA to discuss a different reason to think about legalizing medicinal cannabis, that being the economic potential that comes with it. I want to thank you for the chance to testify before you today. I ask you to consider, if after you hear our testimony and you can see the economic possibilities that are available to Kansas, that in your final report to the 2021 legislature you simply include a couple of statements. First including a positive statement in support of cleaning up our industrial hemp laws. Second, including a positive statement supporting a medicinal cannabis program for Kansas. Having these statements in your final report would be a great step in the right direction for the future of Kansans and State of Kansas in whole.

Thank you,

Kevin Barone

SB 449



Short Title

Removing cannabis products that contain up to 0.3% THC from the list of controlled substances listed in schedule I of the uniform controlled substances act.

[View Testimony and Minutes](#)

Bill Versions

FN: Fiscal Note

Version	Documents	FN
As introduced		

Current Sponsor

Original Sponsor

Bill History

JPN: Journal Page Number

Date	Chamber	Status	JPN
Thu, May 21, 2020	Senate	Died in Committee	
Fri, Feb 21, 2020	Senate	Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2020, 8:30 AM Room 159-S	
Mon, Feb 17, 2020	Senate	Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	1281
Fri, Feb 14, 2020	Senate	Introduced	1278