

Date: March 3, 2022
Proponent of House Bill No. 2708
Presenter: Clay Bullard

Prepared statement:

Good morning committee members and thank you for this opportunity to present to you today. My name is Clay Bullard, and I am here on behalf of various different healthcare industry and public safety groups.

As you consider the multitude of issues surrounding the various legalization related to medical marijuana for the State of Kansas, I would like to highlight one area that I think this committee should consider on behalf of all the citizens of Kansas, as it can and will affect all citizens at some level. I am for the establishment and utilization of a single quality assurance testing lab as proposed in HB 2708.

The medical marijuana industry is one that void of standardization in most all aspects of regulations, testing, or punitive damage. When compared to any other medical product - pharmaceutical, device or lab test, the regulations are fragmented and the industry, both legal and illegal, take full advantage. A lack of standards and is NOT in the best interests of anyone who uses, if the citizens of Kansas are to be protected from fraud, dangerous chemicals, and people.

Oklahoma was the first state to legalize cannabis for medicinal purposes AND required that the Department of Health establish a private - public partnership with a quality assurance laboratory to help establish standards of laboratory testing, processing of edible products, and quality checks on all dispensaries. This is what I would ask this committee to consider establishing within the written legislation when you vote to pass any legislation to legalize cannabis, as a medical product. HB 2708 is similar language already passed by this committee and the full House in 2021.

HB 2708 can and should establish a single laboratory that all agencies touched by the marijuana industry have access and confidence in for their portion of regulating and enforcing. Law Enforcement, Agriculture, Health, and other agency both State and local would access to the same expertise, standard, and reporting of testing, This will allow Kansas to work efficiently, consistently, and avoid ambiguity between agency labs and the industry who typically fights any such establishment of standards and efficiencies.

Kansas has the opportunity to be out in front of any such issues by establishing their single QA laboratory prior to issuing licenses and avoid the problems Oklahoma encountered, and is still encountering, due to their lack of early implementation.

In conclusion, I want to thank the committee again for allowing me to speak. I think Kansas has the opportunity to a new standard of public safety and consumer protection as it relates to testing the medical cannabis and hemp industries.