

March 15, 2023

Joel Soto
Resident of Dodge City
Proponent Testimony on SB135
For the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

I'm grateful for this opportunity to share my voice and concerns regarding this issue. As someone who has friends and family who this bill could potentially impact, I cannot pretend it doesn't have some importance to me. Several thousands of people living in Kansas have shown their support for the legalization of medical cannabis, and this doesn't include the millions of Americans living around the U.S. who shared the same opinion. It's something that shouldn't be ignored and set aside to deal with in another couple of years.

Living in a town as small as Dodge City, it's reasonable to believe accessibility to certain medical services is limited. Moving to another city or state is possibly the only option they have to find resources that suit them. This may result in paying high expenditures or spending too much unnecessary time. With plenty of other common occurrences I could list, this is why I support the proposed SB135. Not only can these two issues be addressed, but this opens the door to more opportunities. Employment in this field can increase and people may find the treatment that they've needed. I'm aware this bill also addresses the issue of criminalization for the distribution, sale, and use of medical cannabis. The effects the War on Drugs had on criminalizing nonviolent drug offenders and potentially ruining their future shows this bill is a step in the right direction.

I hope to see this bill voted on and passed into law. It's saddening to see thousands of lives being lost every year due to a lack of access to proper and affordable care. To see how long this issue has been debated for decades and nothing has been passed nationally, it's disappointing. SB135 is the solution to solve a potential crisis in Kansas and save thousands of lives.

Thank You,
Joel Soto
joelsoto547@gmail.com