



To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee
From: Kansas Cannabis Industry Association
RE: HB 2184

February 24, 2021

This hearing is an important step in understanding that the issue of Medical Cannabis cannot be ignored. Thank you for providing an opportunity to continue the process of understanding what medical cannabis is, how it can help citizens in need and working toward legislation that will become a workable reality.

You will have many people submit testimony outlining the benefits of medical cannabis for those in need and who suffer from medical conditions that are improved with access to medical cannabis.

Today, however, our message is this: Medical cannabis laws are not a passing fad but are, in fact, a national trend embraced by lawmakers and citizens on both sides of the aisle who recognize the medical and economic benefits. A regulatory system can be created to provide reasonable access and that system is set forth in HB 2184.

Kansas must enact a law suitable to our needs, otherwise our state will be left behind nationally as Congress addresses the issue. ***We are falling behind and do not want to face the prospect of having to be saddled with a federal system forced upon us due to state inaction.***

Thirty-Six states have legalized medical marijuana systems. They are:

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|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Alaska | • Illinois | • Nevada | • Pennsylvania |
| • Arizona | • Louisiana | • New Hampshire | • Rhode Island |
| • Arkansas | • Maine | • New Jersey | • Utah |
| • California | • Maryland | • New Mexico | • Vermont |
| • Colorado | • Massachusetts | • New York | • Washington |
| • Connecticut | • Michigan | • North Dakota | • West Virginia |
| • Delaware | • Minnesota | • Ohio | • District |
| • Florida | • Missouri | • Oklahoma | • of Columbia |
| • Hawaii | • Montana | • Oregon | • Mississippi |
| • South Dakota | • Iowa | | |

Kansans are ready to embrace laws that provide access. In 2019 the KCIA conducted a statewide poll of Kansas voters that sent a clear message -- Kansans want the Legislature to pass Medical Cannabis Legislation. The poll showed Kansans, including those opposed to cannabis, will continue to look favorably on Legislators who vote for medical cannabis laws. Conducted by research firm HLC Strategies, the poll shows 70.3% of Kansans support medical cannabis legislation compared to just 22.1% who oppose. ***When asked if they would continue to support a Legislator who votes for medical cannabis legislation, even if that voter personally opposes, 78.1% said they would continue to support their Legislator.***

A poll taken February 4, 2021 shows two thirds of Kansas voters support legalizing medical marijuana. The survey, by Republican pollster J.D. Johannes, shows 66% percent of Kansans indicate they support medical marijuana with healthy backing from Democrats and Republicans. 42% strongly support legalizing medical marijuana, while only 15% indicated strong opposition. The poll found 54% of traditional Republicans back medical marijuana. Support among Democrats was stronger with 87% of more liberal Democrats supporting medical marijuana legalization compared to 74% of more traditional Democrats. Those who fall more in the middle generally supported medical marijuana, with 66% in favor of legalization.

HB2184 is written in a manner to draw on existing executive branch resources to keep a low fiscal note while creating an orderly system of licensing, regulation, and tax collection.

Income and Jobs: Setting up marijuana nurseries, distributorships and dispensaries will be the first step for Kansas. This activity will create jobs and get the ball rolling for economic activity in the cannabis industry. New Frontier Data forecasts that under full federal legalization cannabis has the potential to create cumulatively \$105.6 billion in federal tax revenue and 1 million new jobs by 2025. In 2020, medical marijuana sales in the U.S. topped \$7 billion. Workers will be needed to farm, process, distribute, and sell cannabis-based products. Further, there are ample opportunities for secondary industries related to legal cannabis not directly involved in its production and distribution. These include software developers, financing services, construction companies, and many others. *If Kansas does not cultivate an industry now, as the system opens nationwide, we will find ourselves dependent on outsiders who will take money from our state, instead of a homegrown industry that retains dollars and jobs for Kansas.*

Legal medical marijuana presents the possibility of tremendous benefits to our economy. It will assist to secure investment portfolios of investors across the state. The Kansas Cannabis Industry Association has been informed by interested businesspersons they are prepared to invest in this new industry. No doubt medical marijuana will increase tax revenue.

Legalizing medical marijuana in Kansas will generate more jobs, open more investment opportunities, and increase tax revenues. Importantly medical marijuana benefits patients obtaining recommendations from their medical marijuana doctors to treat their disease.

Please do not let today be the end of this discussion. Make sure this is a first step in working with us and all Kansans in passing reasonable, regulated medical cannabis legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I am happy to provide additional information and answer questions at any time.

Respectfully Submitted,



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