

HOUSE BILL 2184 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

TESTIMONY OF **DR. JACK CONSALVO**

Good morning members:

My name is Dr. Jack Consalvo.

I am a VETERAN and have been a physician for more than 37 years

I am the medical director for Green Healthcare Solutions Kansas, LLC.

My background is emergency medicine and trauma surgery and I have 37 years of clinical experience working in supervisory and clinical roles in emergency departments.

In my medical experience I have treated a wide breadth of medical maladies including neurological disorders, pain syndromes and opioid use disorders for which there were not very good or effective treatments. Included in these disorders are PTSD, Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy resistant to routine therapy, Parkinson's Disease flareup, debilitation anxiety disorders, neuropathic pain syndromes, terminal disease issues, and opioid use disorders.

I am a huge believer in the benefits of medical cannabis in all of its forms, including edibles and smokable and vaping products, for a number of reasons:

First, I have witnessed, firsthand, the medical benefits of cannabis for a number of patient groups, including veterans with PTSD and other disorders, cancer patients, children suffering seizure disorders, and those trying to find an alternative pain management program that does NOT involve opiates

*Medical cannabis is real medicine with real benefits to a wide-range of patient groups

Second, legalizing medical cannabis in Kansas will allow the medicine to be widely studied by the public universities. Research into medical cannabis has been nearly impossible in the past, but with legalization, the State and universities will be able to study the compounds in medical cannabis, provide further research and guidance into additional uses, and help to create new products that will not only benefit patients, but the local business community.

As a physician I know of no other drug that has such a wide range of applications and virtually borders on the definition of a miracle drug as medical cannabis. In short, the creation of a medical cannabis program in Kansas really will be a win-win for the state, the universities, patients, and the local business community

Thank you very much.