

Testimony on HB 2184

To: Chairman Representative John Barker, Vice Chair Representative Tory Amberger and Federal and State Committee.

Thank You for the continued work and enthusiasm shown for supporting the Kansas voters.

As a former Legislator I have held many conversations with Kansas voters on Medical Cannabis.

The overwhelming majority has shown support for its passing. I took a mixed (subject) survey January of 2018 followed by a single subject survey in March of 2019. In 2018 the support was 58 percent in favor of legalizing medical Marijuana, 26 percent no opinion and 13 percent indicated no or did not have enough information to answer the question. 3 percent failed to answer the question. In March of 2019 when I modified the question from a YES or NO, to include: Would you consider having a recommendation for Medical Marijuana, if suggested by a licensed Physician and the proper steps were taken to ensure public safety. The percentage of Yeses increased to 69 percent. The percentage of NO's/no opinion decreased to 12 percent. The remaining 19 percent were still NO under any circumstances, and needed more information. The survey also noted that the government should not be regulating natural weed.

There were countless conversations before and after I presented the Industrial bill that later passed. Kansas is long overdue for many reasons. Many clinicians have old misconceptions whether the addictive risk of using Medicinal Marijuana outweighs the proven facts that opioids cause more problems and death in many cases. The quality of genetics is vital to the overall legal market. When the quality exceeds the black-market sub standards products, we are protecting Kansas citizens.

One myth I would like to address to this distinguished committee is (**weather its medical or Recreational Marijuana, it's all the same**). It is not the same and there is clear data that proves it. We as individuals have no idea what we do not know about this giving plant that has provided healing and wellness for centuries without the presence of habitual elements that are harmful to the human body and addictive to many users of Prescription drugs. The law cannot prevent the (overuse) of any substance good or bad.

Laboratory Testing and Consumer Safety is at the top of my list for Kansas. To follow the science of multiple conditions can lead to unknown implications that could save lives and improve the quality of life in others. ``Since the war on drugs in the 70's cannabis was labeled a schedule 1 narcotic which literally suspended any US testing for almost four decades. **This legislature can change that by recognizing the opportunity we have by voting yes on HB 2184**

It is my hope that Kansas adopts a Public Private Partnership with the intention of allowing the Universities, colleges and junior colleges the opportunity to expand on the benefits of Medical Marihuana. This will be explained in detail when requested.

With the prospect of Kansas participating in a new source of revenue from several points of interest together we can put Kansas on a winning path. **It should be noted that Oklahoma recently approved Medical Marihuana. Last year 2020 Oklahoma tax revenue exceeded Seventy-nine Million Dollars from the legalization of Medical Marihuana.**

I have had discussions with our educational leaders about this possibility however we are at an impasse until the bill becomes law in Kansas. When HB 2184 Passes these discussions will continue.