

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Pilcher-Cook at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Jim Denning – Excused

Committee staff present:

Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department

Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department

Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator David Haley

Kiley Klug

Christine Bay

Donna and David Reed

Mark Pedersen, Cannabis Patient Network Institute (CPNI)

Carl Williams, Speaker Pro-Tem of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature

David E. Mulford

Kelly Patton

Tracy Robles

Esau Freeman

Tiffanie Krentz

Nick Reinecker

Tatiana Lin, Senior Analyst and Strategy Team Leader, Kansas Health Institute (KHI)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Mary Ellen Conlee, President, Conlee Consulting Group, Inc., introduced a nurse practitioner bill similar to 2014 SB326. With no objection, the bill was introduced.

Informational hearing:

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the informational hearing on Marijuana for the Advocates.

Senator David Haley asked permission for other conferees to testify until his testimony has been delivered.

Kiley Klug testified as an advocate for marijuana. She stated that her son, Owen, suffers from Dravet Syndrome, a chronic severe form of epilepsy. Ms. Klug gave a brief history of Owen's condition. She concluded by stating that she is pleading that this is not the end of this discussion but only the

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beginning. ([Attachment 1](#))

Christine Bay testified as an advocate for marijuana. She stated that she is appearing on behalf of her three-year old daughter, Autumn, who has an SCN1A mutation causing her to be prone to prolonged and febrile seizures. Ms. Bay continued with a brief history of Autumn's condition. She concluded by stating that she supports **SB9 - enacting the cannabis compassion and care act**, and would ask that doctors be allowed to do their job and preserve the lives of these children and patients. Ms. Bay referred the Committee to her written testimony. ([Attachment 2](#))

Donna Reed testified as an advocate for marijuana. She stated that she and her husband are here on behalf of their grandson, Otis, and other Kansans who need another option for their medical treatments. Ms. Reed stated that their son, Ryan, and his wife, Kathy, have moved from their home in Lawrence, Kansas, to Colorado to be able to give Otis medical marijuana. She continued stating that Otis doesn't walk or talk or even sit up on his own yet, but they have great hope that he will. Ms. Reed concluded by stating that they would ask that you consider people's needs. ([Attachment 3](#))

Mark Pedersen, CPNI, testified as an advocate for marijuana. Mr. Pedersen stated that his organization is a national educational organization that provides education in regard to cannabis efficacy as medicine. He continued his testimony describing his work with terminally ill children and adults. Mr. Pedersen stated that the importance of this issue can be seen in the faces of each and every one of the people present here. ([Attachment 4](#))

Carl Williams, Speaker Pro-Tem of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, testified as an advocate for marijuana. He stated that the Silver Haired Legislature recently voted in favor of a resolution that urges the Kansas Legislature to legalize medical marijuana by more than two-thirds majority. Mr. Williams stated that they believe it is time to replace 80 plus years of misinformation with truthful, scientific, fact-based proof that it will help thousands of Kansans who suffer from a variety of medical conditions. Mr. Williams referred the Committee to his written testimony. ([Attachment 5](#))

David Mulford testified as an advocate for marijuana. Mr. Mulford shared a brief history of his condition of massive debilitating muscle spasms. Mr. Mulford stated that by legalizing marijuana, you're not just protecting us here today, you're protecting generations of future Kansans from going through what we've had to go through. Mr. Mulford stated that you're opening up the avenue of research to our colleges and universities. He concluded by stating there is enough scientific knowledge out there now, especially in the form of the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research (CMCR) that will help you to make a good informed decision. ([Attachment 6](#))

Kelly Patton testified as an advocate for marijuana. She provided information on the side effects of two common pharmaceutical drugs used to treat her disease. Ms. Patton shared what she done in terms of reducing continued harm to her liver while continuing to try to reduce pain. Ms. Patton stated that the human body is made up of the endocannabinoid system, and this is good, preventative medicine. It has

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shown positive results with diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. ([Attachment 7](#)) ([Attachment 8](#))

Tracy Robles testified as an advocate for marijuana. She stated that she is here on behalf of her daughter, Sofie, who suffers from Dravet Syndrome. Ms. Robles shared a brief history of Sofie's condition and medications she has taken. Ms. Robles urged everyone to look at her written testimony. ([Attachment 9](#))

Esau Freeman testified as an advocate for marijuana. Mr. Freeman explained what he feels are the high points of the bill. He continued his testimony by asking that if there is something you don't like about this bill, please debate it, please discuss it, and let's please talk about it, please don't sweep us under the rug. Mr. Freeman concluded his testimony by stating that this bill needs to be debated this year for Kansas. ([Attachment 10](#))

Tiffanie Krentz testified as an advocate for marijuana. Ms. Krentz stated that she is a parent of a Dravet child. She shared a brief history of her 10-year old son's, JJ's, experience with the syndrome. Ms. Krentz stated that they are here because they are all out of options. She stated that she is terrified because they have nothing left to give JJ. In concluding, Ms. Krentz stated that she's not sure what JJ's future holds, but she doesn't want to see any other families have to go through the things that they have. ([Attachment 11](#))

Nick Reinecker testified as an advocate for marijuana. He stated that since this is an informational hearing about cannabis, he's going to present his thoughts on how society is in regard to this issue and the principles of our nation. Mr. Reinecker testified that this bill is for those who cannot advocate for themselves and believe they have no alternatives to health care beyond that of pills and/or surgery, enslaving them with an endless monthly payment plan that follows. ([Attachment 12](#))

Senator David Haley testified as an advocate for marijuana. He thanked all of the advocates that came stating that he appreciated the conferees sharing some very personal stories. Senator Haley stated that there is also a bill on the House side **HB2011-enacting the cannabis compassion and care act**. He stated that we should be addressing medical marijuana and make Kansas the 24th state to have medical marijuana along with the District of Columbia. Senator Haley provided committee members an article from a National Geographic book that talks about cannabis sativa and its history. Swerdlow, J. L. (2000) *Nature's Medicine: Plants that Heal*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic. ([Attachment 13](#))

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook stated that before continuing the hearing with neutral testimony, she would encourage everyone to come tomorrow for the non-advocate testimony to hear another part of the debate.

Tatiana Lin, KHI, testified as a neutral conferee. Ms. Lin stated that KHI is in the process of conducting a study looking at the potential positive and negative health impacts that could result from

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legalization of medical marijuana in Kansas. She explained the steps that they are taking to conduct the research. Ms. Lin stated that their final findings and recommendations would be released later in February. Ms. Lin reported on two of their preliminary findings looking at out how legalization of medical marijuana would impact consumption of marijuana for the general population and youth; and how legalization of medical marijuana might impact violent and property crimes. Ms. Lin stated that their final findings and recommendations would include the impact on state and local tax revenue, jobs, populations with qualifying medical conditions, accidental ingestion, driving under the influence, possession and selling of marijuana and use of other substances. ([Attachment 14](#))

Written advocate testimony was submitted by:

Lisa Ash Sublett, founder, Bleeding Kansas ([Attachment 15](#)) ([Attachment 16](#))

Marc Bertolino, AIA, LEED, AP ([Attachment 17](#))

Urvi Biyala ([Attachment 18](#))

Amy L. Wintermantel ([Attachment 19](#))

Angel Lusso-Harris ([Attachment 20](#))

Brian Evans ([Attachment 21](#))

Brittany Adams ([Attachment 22](#))

Geoff Crawford ([Attachment 23](#))

Heide Meadows ([Attachment 24](#))

Jason and Jayden David ([Attachment 25](#))

Melissa and Brandon Ragsdale([Attachment 26](#))

Ryan and Kathy Reed ([Attachment 27](#))

Dave Auble ([Attachment 28](#))

Laura Snyder ([Attachment 29](#))

Patricia Holland ([Attachment 30](#))

Stacie Swanson-Crass ([Attachment 31](#))

There was a brief question and answer period. In answer to one of the questions, Christine Bay provided additional documentation. ([Attachment 32](#)) After all questions from the Committee were answered, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2015