

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 Thursday, January 22, 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:

Eric A. Voth, M.D., FACP, Institute on Global Drug Policy and Kansas Medical Society

Ed Klumpp, Legislative Committee Chair-Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP),

Legislative Liaison-Kansas Sheriff's Association (KSA), Legislative Liaison-Kansas Peace Officers Association (KPOA)

Kim Brown, Chair, Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Informational hearing:

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

Dr. Eric Voth testified as a non-advocate for marijuana representing the Institute on Global Drug Policy and the views of the Kansas Medical Society. He addressed some of the problems associated with marijuana being a problem drug and described those problems. Dr. Voth stated that marijuana is a serious public health threat. It's not a harmless substance, and it's irresponsible to suggest that it's essentially a meaningless or simple recreational drug. Dr. Voth pointed out and provided information regarding other negative effects of the medical marijuana movements such as adolescent use of marijuana, fatal marijuana crashes, elements of crime, childhood THC poisonings, as well as the issue of who is actually using the marijuana for medicinal purposes. Dr. Voth stated that there is not one medical indication or medical disorder where marijuana is the only option more superior to existing drugs. He stated that there are already cannabinoids available such as Marinol and one called Sativex that is hopefully coming soon. There are also investigational new drug trials going on with the Charlotte's Web equivalent which is called Epidiolex. Dr. Voth concluded his testimony by stating he is very concerned that we don't want to set a bad precedent that bypasses the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and essentially creates medicine by popular vote. We need to stick to FDA processes for getting medicines to market. ([Attachment 1](#)) ([Attachment 2](#))

Dr. Voth responded to questions from the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 118-N of the Capitol.

Ed Klumpp testified as a non-advocate for marijuana representing the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association. Mr. Klumpp stated that he wanted to talk about balancing between what may be a benefit and what may be consequences, either known consequences that may be acceptable or unknown or unintended consequences. He stated that last week he attended a three-day conference in Colorado on the lessons learned during Colorado's process of legalization. Mr. Klumpp reported on some of what he learned at the conference. He stated that on the last page of his testimony, he has a list of resources where some of the data came from. ([Attachment 3](#))

Kim Brown, testified as a non-advocate for marijuana appearing on behalf of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP). Ms. Brown stated that they see the substantial social impacts of marijuana in those they work with in the prevention and treatment systems, which is the focus of her testimony. Ms. Brown stated that increased access will lead to increase in use and the increased perception that marijuana use is not harmful. This will lead to more need for treatment services further taxing their underfunded treatment and prevention system. ([Attachment 4](#))

Written Non-Advocate testimony was submitted by:

Debra Billingsley, Executive Secretary, The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy ([Attachment 5](#))

Kirk Thompson, Director, Kansas Bureau of Investigation ([Attachment 6](#))

Dan Roehler, President, Board of Directors, Kansas Family Partnership ([Attachment 7](#))

Kansas Trauma Program ([Attachment 8](#))

Rachelle Colombo, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society ([Attachment 9](#))

Eric Fry, M.D., President, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons ([Attachment 10](#))

After questions by the Committee were addressed, Chairperson Pilcher-Cook adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2015.