

My name is Carl Williams. I am the Speaker Pro-Tem of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, an organization that speaks on behalf of more than 450,000 Kansans 60-years-old and older.

The Silver Haired Legislature recently voted by more than a two-thirds majority in favor a resolution that urges the Kansas Legislature to legalize medical marijuana.

Why, you ask, would an organization made up of elderly Kansans vote in favor of legalizing medical marijuana? Because we believe it is time to replace 80+ years of misinformation about marijuana with truthful, scientific, fact-based proof that it will help thousands of Kansans who suffer from a variety of medical conditions.

For instance, a little girl who had stopped talking or even being able to feed herself because she suffered from more than 300 epileptic seizures a month ...began taking three drops of cannabis oil in her food daily and her seizures were virtually eliminated. She once again started talking and learning and playing with other childrenjust like any normal little girl.

Thousands of Kansans who suffer with Rheumatoid arthritis must buy extremely expensive biologic medications and pain medications. They could use marijuana, not only to lesson chronic pain and go to sleep more naturally, but cannabis has been found to even reverse the effects of arthritis ...not to mention, they could save thousands of dollars annually and avoid liver failure and other side effects that are so often possible with expensive pharmaceuticals. My own wife has severe Rheumatoid arthritis and has had to resort to using extremely dangerous biologic medications and pain medications. During a recent trip to Colorado, she ate a medicinal marijuana cookie before bed and she had the most restful night of sleep in years. There were no side dangerous side effects as there are with her legal medications — medications so dangerous that her doctors must monitor her liver enigms so they know when she must halt their use to avoid further liver damage.

It's well known that medical marijuana also helps cancer patients who are receiving chemo-therapy improve their appetite and reverse their weight loss. And, because so many senior citizens in Kansas are undergoing chemotherapy, when their spouses try to obtain marijuana to make their loved one better able to tolerate the

Chemotherapy, they risk arrest. In fact, here in Kansas senior citizens in that very circumstance HAVE been arrested— that's just plain wrong.

Reflecting America's readiness to embrace scientific facts over economically motivated mythology, the United States House and Senate Appropriations Committees included provisions in the omnibus

spending bill prohibiting the Department of Justice from using federal funds to interfere with state-legal medical marijuana operations and protecting hemp cultivation for academic and research purposes.

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition is an organization with a membership of current and former police chiefs, narcotics officers, judges and other crime-fighting professionals who recognize how unjust the laws are in regard to all drugs, but specifically, marijuana.

Major Neill Franklin (Ret.), executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition said, "This is a great day for patients and for public safety. Congress has finally listened to the vast majority of Americans who believe the federal government has no right to interfere in the personal decision to use medical marijuana made by a patient in consultation with his or her doctor. Law enforcement never should have been a part of that decision and if this amendment passes, they no longer will."

Medical, religious, and other organizations endorse the use of medical cannabis.

On behalf of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature and the nearly half-million senior citizens in Kansas whom we represent, we urge you to please reconsider your own attitudes toward medical marijuana and support Senate Bill 9... Please allow the thousands of people in Kansas who could benefit from medicinal cannabis to have legal access to what is becoming recognized as being more safe and beneficial than many of the more expensive, legal medications they must rely on today.