

Dear Honorable Kansas Senators and Representatives,

I am reaching out to you concerning Bills SB9, The Compassionate Care Act, and HB2011 to legalize medical Cannabis. Adopting these bills will allow patients, such as me, to have a choice at a medication that isn't addictive and has never resulted in an overdose death in recorded history.

In my case, I was a very active mother to my 2 children, daughter to my aging parents, and there for anyone that needed help anytime. I loved hiking, climbing, exploring, gardening, fishing, swimming, golfing, teaching others, etc. I was very active as a K-State Master Gardener through the extension in Sedgwick County. I served my community through service work. I went where my community needed my skills for the betterment of society. I lead a pretty full life.

I was bit by 2 ticks on March 17, 2010 while crappie fishing. Everything went downhill quickly from there. I went undiagnosed for 7months. I got shingles lasting a year, and was bedbound after a cyst removal on lower spine for almost the same time. They took my gall bladder. I was diagnosed with Lyme's disease too late. I was already chronic. The pain never left.

I have chronic pain since 2010. I am a patient with no other medical options, bulging disks, cysts wrapped around my spinal cord, degenerative nerve damage, over a year of shingles, herpetic neuralgia, lumbosacral spondylosis, myalgia and bone spurs. The last resorts are surgery and I am considered inoperable by the leading Neurosurgeon in Wichita, Ks, as the results would only be menial and marginal and chances are, they won't help my back pain.

My main complaint is the chronic back pain which cannot be even subdued by pharmaceutical pain killers that will end up resulting in my death. Pharmaceutical drugs aggravate the situation even further. Most of the time, my body refuses to ingest pharmaceuticals and they come right back out one way or the other. It is very hard to keep anything at a therapeutic level in my body. I also have seizures which pharmaceuticals do not control or make worse. Some of this is due to very strong antibiotics for years to help combat the Lyme's disease. That didn't work either.

This is the most debilitating, humiliating, and constant, horrific, life-changing pain that never goes away, no matter what the Doctors or I do. They had tried everything. I've been through spinal therapy, physical therapy, diet changes, vitamins, and many other alternative therapies.

By the way, my PCP, Neurosurgeon, Gastroenterologist, Anesthesiologist, Pain Specialist and Neurologist know Cannabis works for me. The neurologist even asked me not to use Cannabinoids during a 72 hour ambulatory EEG. He knows the power of Cannabinoids and seizure control. I couldn't comply as I use Cannabis for pain. All my doctors and top specialists

recommend I “move to Colorado” especially my Anesthesiologist and Neurologist. All my doctors know it works. Their mouths are wired wide shut due to present laws. I am a persistent patient. They know I want the answers and they know I have them. They also know I don’t do well on ice or snow.

I am 43 yrs old and disabled, now. I don’t drive. My 15 year old drug-free daughter has much easier access to Cannabis than I do. That isn’t right. Thank God, I have instilled in her since day one the importance of abstinence from drugs for people that don’t need them.

I want you to know that I have met with my State Representative Carolyn McGinn and My State Representative Gene Sullentrop. I have actually met several State Representatives including State Representative Gail Finney, Representative Brandon Whipple, Representative Dennis Hedke, and a wonderful Representative in Lawrence, KS. I have spoken with others also. This issue is very important to me as I feel the current status of the law is very unjust to patients especially with no other alternatives such as in my conditions.

Yesterday, the woman who has been my Step-In Grandmother for 10 years passed from Alzheimer's/Dementia. We are grieving especially since this happened to my great-aunt, my maternal grandmother, and now, my chosen grandmother. My 76 year old mother and my 78 year old aunt are starting to show earlier signs of Alzheimer’s. It is hereditary in my family. There were probably more in my heritage but they were written off as crazy.

Have you ever watched someone slip away slowly over years and go from the person you know and love to someone that doesn’t recognize you anymore? They returned to playing with dolls and interacting with them as if they were real. Occasionally, they could recognize their loved-ones. Most of the time they look mystified. They would cry for no reason out of nowhere. My grandmother remembered me and not her own child, my mother. They became enclosed in a world that was strange to them. Comparing it to anything, I would have to write down 10 things I love and know how to do and have those papers and have them ripped up in front of me along with my dreams. My grandmother thought she was having a baby at age 83. I saw my step-in Grandmother dress in odd clothing for several days in a row. She actually thought I was her blood grandchild. She had 18 of those already. These are memories I don’t want to remember.

I want everyone to see how the government's lies have killed my blood relatives and my Step-Up Grandmother. It didn't kill just them. It maims families forever. I'm not the only one. All my relatives are heartbroken once again. Watching this happen has left scars on my family's souls and spirits. I need your help to see the injustice of watching someone die that didn't deserve any torture whatsoever. These are our people that died. These were great, strong Kansas

women. They were hard working mothers, grandmothers and farmers. They were all Kansas bred and born and spent their lives here.

I am very upset that our government has had the ability to finally end the war against this since their Patent: Cannabinoids as antioxidants and neuroprotectants, US 6630507 B1 since before 2003.

Under U.S. federal law, Cannabis is defined as having no medical use. So it might come as a surprise to hear that the government owns one of the only patents on Cannabis as a medicine. The patent ([US6630507](#)) is titled “Cannabinoids as antioxidants and neuroprotectants” and was awarded to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in October 2003. It was filed four years earlier, in 1999, by a group of scientists from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The patent claims exclusive rights on the use of cannabinoids for treating neurological diseases, such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and stroke, and diseases caused by oxidative stress, such as heart attack, Crohn’s disease, diabetes and arthritis. These are other diseases that are prevalent in my family.

Cannabinoids are a diverse class of compounds that include many of the unique compounds found in Cannabis. A number of experts, including CNN’s Chief Medical Correspondent and Neurosurgeon, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, have noted the contradiction between federal Cannabis law and the government’s patent.

We have endocannabinoid systems in our body that grow as we are being formed in the womb. These are regulatory systems. They are invaluable to our health.

I will continue to fight alongside our sick people to change these injustices. I cannot stop. In the meantime, please keep our families in your thoughts. Imagine struggling day in and out to understand why this healing plant is being kept from Americans? It is medicine. It works. I’ve seen and experienced it myself. The worst side effect has been napping (which is invaluable to my health), and dry mouth.

Our great State of Kansas is ready for a Medical Marijuana program. We are tired of watching our loved ones die from the effects of pharmaceuticals. They are but the fix of one issue to the detriment of another. Side effects require more medication to control those which leads to more side effects.

Cannabis is legal for medical use in 23 states and Washington, D.C. enabling doctors to legally recommend Cannabis to patients suffering from epilepsy, PTSD, chronic pain, cancer, MS, diabetes, arthritis, AIDS, and a variety of other ailments, depending on the laws enacted. In America, over 46% of our citizens have safe access to medical marijuana.

There are over 17,000 published papers on the scientific medicinal value of this plant. It is unquestionably the safest drug known to man. Cannabis is much safer than Tylenol as it can be very detrimental to the liver. There are trials going on in the US now but we need to change the law to let Kansas patients have access to Cannabis as medicine most importantly these children w horrific seizure disorders, cancer, etc especially when there are no other medical options left. Please, have compassion for your fellow Kansans. Your constituents, alongside your loved ones, or even perhaps you, may need this medication one day soon... .

Over 221,000 Veterans reside in Kansas ([http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran\\_Population.asp](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp)). PTSD has lead to the suicide of many veterans.

“Each bill would allow patients to safely access and use medical cannabis, as is the case in 23 states and the District of Columbia. **Seventy percent of Kansans** support medical marijuana, and it received a resolution in support from the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. “(Marijuana Project Policy)

After being on up to 24 prescriptions a day, I realized, I couldn't manage all those medications. The drug interactions were beyond reason. My body rejected them. I turned to Cannabis. It solves my chronic pain issue in minutes. I can never die from overdose. My body accepts it I can have a life again. I am again, becoming a useful part of society without pharmaceuticals. I am myself again. I still limp. I am still in pain when not allowed to use my choice of medication that also prevents my seizures. I can think clearly now. My whole family and all my close friends and doctors have seen a change for the better in me, including my father who has served our community as a Police Officer and Sheriff for over 40 years. He continues to serve this great state.

Cannabis helps me to eat after the destruction of my gastrointestinal issues from overprescribed antibiotics for years. It helps me to walk. It helps me to think clearer than I ever could have on all those legal medications that weren't working. I rarely have seizures now. I would die if left to Modern Medicine.

I may walk with a limp but, I can still walk.

I am asking you to adopt or support legalization allowing Cannabis for medical benefits, in Kansas. It is what is right for our District, our State, and most importantly the individuals you represent.

Thank you for your representation and taking the time to consider my letter.

Sincerely,

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