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Hi my name is Cherise and I am submitting testimony as a proponent of SB147. My husband Justin and I reside in Wichita and have a ten-year-old daughter named Arianna. She was formally diagnosed at the age of 5 with autism and intractable epilepsy, even though we started seeing staring spells at age 3. Arianna had her first grand mal seizure at the age of 5 as well. Arianna's doctors have prescribed a number of anti-epileptic medications. They include: depakote, which caused Arianna to act dangerously aggressive; clonazepam, which did absolutely nothing but cause lethargy; and lamictal, which caused Stevens Johnson syndrome. Upon contracting this illness, we were forced to give up on any other medications in this family. Arianna is currently taking trileptal, zonisamide, and onfi. Unfortunately, these medications have done nothing to control her epilepsy. Arianna is currently having at least 10-15 seizures a day. Some are absence seizures and some are drop seizures. She has many bruises and cuts from her drop seizures. She uses a walker to help her walk due to her lack of balance caused from seizures. In addition to pharmaceutical medications, we also had a VNS device placed last summer, only to have it removed due to an infection.

If this bill passes and my daughter is able to use the hemp oil her quality of life could change drastically! She could gain her balance back so she can run and play. The possibilities are endless, and we as parents are desperate to give our daughter the best life she can live.