

Room 144S

Ref: SB135

The Honorable Mike Thompson and fellow committee members,

Over the last 14 years there has been debate of a cannabis bill in one way or another. Support that has always been there just has become more accepted and public, therefore easier and more accurate to gage through polling. Additionally, I have no doubt each of you, if taken the time to educate yourself in an unbiased manor, have a good idea of the benefits and pitfalls of cannabis by now. So instead of taking up your time with pages of studies and testimony of patients benefiting from cannabis, I want to simply ask a few questions.

If your fear is crime, would you repeal alcohol today? After all, far more crime and deaths are a result of alcohol today than ANY drug used socially ore otherwise.

If your fear for health reasons, would you repeal tobacco or any of the hundreds of food additives and prescription drugs KNOWN to be a significant health risk?

What I am hoping to point out is that the reason why one is an opponent or proponent to the topic directly is largely because of personal biases. You as a elected legislator, ideally, you should not allow yourself to fall into an echo chamber. Each and every one of us has some vice that would be frowned upon by some others; either it's something as benign as having too many cats or going 10mph over the post speed limit or worse drinking or gambling too much, all of which is legal in Kansas.

So my last question, if looked at objectively, why does Cannabis still remain illegal in Kansas when over 73% of the responding residents support legal access? Shouldn't something far less harmful than the above mentioned drugs, used by nearly every American in some fashion, dispensed in a responsible manor by the state AND personal physician have access for consenting adults, regardless of your personal preference.

Respectfully,

George Hanna

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