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JOHN WILSON
10TH DISTRICT

February 17, 2015

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of my constituents and hundreds of Kansans living with debilitating seizures, I stand in strong support of HB 2282 – Otis’ Law.

Otis’ Law is a limited high-CBD, low-THC medical hemp bill designed to allow regulated access to products which contain the active ingredient cannabidiol, or CBD. CBD is one of over 60 compounds found in the plant Cannabis sativa L. belonging to a class of molecules called cannabinoids. **CBD has no intoxicating effects.** THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the chemical responsible for most of marijuana’s psychological effects. CBD and THC levels tend to vary among different plants. Marijuana grown for recreational purposes often contains more THC than CBD. However, by using selective breeding techniques, growers have created varieties with high levels of CBD and almost no THC.

HB 2282 differs significantly from the “medical marijuana” bills that have been introduced over the past few years in the Kansas Legislature, including HB 2011, which was introduced this session. This bill represents a Kansas solution—a solution that is designed for very specific medical conditions and with very limited forms of consumption and access.

With that in mind, I think it’s important and helpful to understand what this bill doesn’t do.

HB 2282...

- Does not allow the growing or consumption of marijuana with any intoxicating or psychoactive effects
- Does not allow for recreational use of marijuana
- Does not allow people to grow marijuana at home
- Does not allow all (or even most) medical conditions to be treated with marijuana
- Does not legalize “industrial” hemp
- Does not decriminalize marijuana possession
- Does not allow for shipping or sending marijuana by mail or other shipping service

So if that’s what the bill doesn’t do, what does it do?

Under HB 2282...

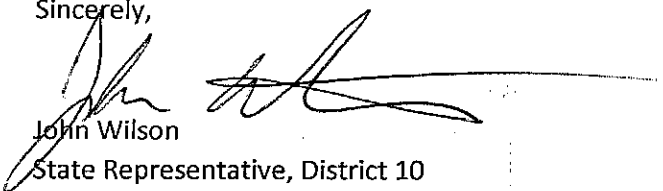
- A patient with a qualifying condition would have legal access to hemp products with no more than 3% THC (not enough for impairment)
- A patient must have doctor-issued certification in order to be eligible
- A patient could have one designated caregiver, who must register with the health department.
- Licensed producers would cultivate state-compliant varieties of hemp, perform extraction processes, and meet packaging and labeling requirements established by KDHE
- KDHE would register, regulate and inspect private producers of medical hemp and hemp products
- KDHE would license and regulate independent testing labs

For a detailed analysis of this bill, please reference the handout "**Otis' Law – Kansas' Hemp Oil Bill.**"

In the past year, eleven states have passed CBD or hemp oil laws that are unlikely to result in functional state programs for patients due to the type and number of restrictions. The carefully crafted components of Otis' law balance the need for positive health outcomes with the need to protect public and patient safety. Furthermore, Otis' Law provides a regulatory framework for any forthcoming changes that may occur as a result of changes at the federal level. Until that time, I think we should be doing all we can for Kansans searching for help.

If Otis Reed and Owen Klug were the only ones to benefit from the passage of HB 2282, I wholeheartedly believe that it is still worth our time, effort and consideration. I hope you will join me in supporting the passage of Otis' Law out of committee and in sharing the stories you heard today with the rest of our colleagues in the House.

Sincerely,



John Wilson

State Representative, District 10