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At one point in America's history, cannabis was medicinally prepared in pharmacies throughout the country—used in one third of all medicines from 1830 – 1930. Following the creation of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and the subsequent adoption of the Uniform Narcotics Act during prohibition, states quickly acquiesced to Federal pressure and adopted regulation of cannabis statewide. The time has come, nearly a century later, to reintroduce cannabis oil for medicinal use in Kansas. The hemp Extract Bill was recently signed into law by Governor Nixon, placing Missouri in the company of 23 states that have passed similar legislation to bring cannabis oil to children with intractable epilepsy.

In Missouri, the law allows two specific groups to receive cannabis oil treatment: (i) residents 18 or older with intractable epilepsy, or (ii) children under the age of 18 with intractable epilepsy, under the supervision of a parent or legal guardian. Intractable epilepsy means that the child has tried at least three medications and/or treatments and is still having reoccurring, unprovoked seizures.

Congratulations to the state of Missouri for this small but necessary step. We hope that Kansas does the same. Please understand that the Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri and Kansas is not in favor of recreational use of marijuana.

Missouri's bill does not mean:

It does not mean that you can smoke pot and believe you are exempt from arrest because you have epilepsy. Only individuals with hemp extract registration cards may purchase hemp extract from a CBD Oil Care Center. You cannot go to a Care Center, state you have epilepsy and expect to receive cannabis oil.

Nor does the law give you permission to purchase oil or marijuana over the internet. You may only purchase the cannabis oil from a CBD Oil Care Center if you have the correct documentation. Importantly, you cannot travel outside the state of Missouri with the oil. There will be six CBD Oil Care Centers in Missouri, subject to state approval.

There will be two licenses issued to growers. Licenses have not been issued to growers, as yet. Once the plant is grown and the oil extracted, it will be sent to the Care Centers and be available for purchase.

Hemp Extract for people with intractable epilepsy is here to stay in Missouri and I hope Kansas, too. The Epilepsy Foundation fully supports this bill.

Darla Templeton, CEO

Epilepsy Foundation Missouri and Kansas