



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson
Director

Derek Schmidt
Attorney General

Testimony in Opposition of HB2282
Before the Kansas House Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Kirk D. Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
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Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kirk Thompson and I serve as the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI). Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2282 which purports to legalize the use of hemp treatments for those suffering from debilitating seizure disorders. However, the details of the bill make it much broader in application.

I have had the opportunity to review House Bill 2282 and contemplate many of the possible law enforcement, public health, regulatory and public policy related implications that could result from passage of the measure. The act attempts to create a legal path for the use of regulated amounts of cannabis substances under the guise of a legitimate medical treatment.

The complexity of the act does not lend itself well to a line by line discussion of the individual merits and concerns in the amount of time allotted, and I will make no attempt to do that today. What I would hope to do, however, is clearly convey to the committee the overall position of the agency and what we believe to be the position of the vast majority of Kansas law enforcement agencies. The passage of this bill that would authorize medicinal marijuana treatments is not good for our state.

In support of that position I would like to review a couple of main points:

- As the lead state criminal investigative agency, our personnel have witnessed, firsthand, the crime, abuse and personal harm that results from the use of illegal drugs. State supported or sanctioned drug dispensaries, operating outside of the current structure for regulating and determining the safety of substances used as medicine, would, in our opinion, have the potential to exacerbate those negative outcomes.
- Marijuana continues to be illegal under federal law. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have consistently and repeatedly rejected marijuana for medicinal use. Marijuana is classified as a Schedule I drug, which means it has a high potential for

abuse and lacks any accepted medical use in the United States. This bill would bypass the safeguards established by the FDA to protect the public from dangerous or ineffective drugs.

- As written, the bill provides the possibility for broadening the legal definition of hemp preparations as well as the applicability for treatment of any medical disorder beyond that which is currently stated.
- Marinol, a synthetic Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, has been approved by the FDA for treatment of some of the conditions potentially addressed in the proposed statute. Marinol has undergone rigorous review by the FDA and is distributed to patients through well-established and well accepted mechanisms.
- The provisions of this act create a level of conflict with the enforcement of other state and federal laws regarding the possession, distribution and cultivation of marijuana. The potential for a "gray market" for marijuana sales would appear to be significant as a result. The regulatory provisions of the act would also appear to be very costly to implement and may increase the cost to the ultimate consumer to a level far above the price for marijuana purchased on the black market or for the prescription drug Marinol.

There are many arguments both pro and con for legalizing the medicinal use of cannabis and cannabis substances. Those arguments could fill days of testimony and pages of well researched documents. In the end, however, we recognize this is a public policy decision. As you give due deliberation to that important decision, please consider the experience and perspective of the KBI and the Kansas law enforcement community, along with the experience and perspective of the FDA and other health professionals. Marijuana (cannabis) has a high potential for abuse and lacks any accepted medical use in the United States. Marijuana is illegal and should remain illegal in our state.

Thank you.

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