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House of Representatives

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Gail A. Finney  
Representatives, 84<sup>th</sup> District

Proponent Testimony for SB 155  
Cannabis Compassionate Care Act

February 20, 2017

Members of the Senate Fed and State Committee,

Kansas is one of only six states whose laws lack *any* acknowledgement of the medical benefits of cannabis. Several bills have been introduced this year that would finally change that — HB 2348, SB 187, and SB 155 would each create comprehensive medical cannabis programs. Sixty-eight percent of Kansans support patient access to medical marijuana, which studies show can provide relief for patients suffering from serious conditions like cancer, HIV/AIDS, and multiple sclerosis.

I support the goals of The Cannabis Compassionate Care Act (SB 155) which seeks to enact statewide legal protections, shielding from arrest and prosecution, criminal and other penalties and property forfeiture of patients with debilitating medical conditions who engage in the medical use of cannabis therapeutically with a doctor's recommendation, as well as practitioners and providers. Although I support SB155, I prefer to use the comprehensive language of the Kansas Safe Access Act (KSAA) bills HB 2348 or SB 187, of which I have attached an index guide for your review.

Many hours of research and dedicated work has been put into writing the KSAA. It has been a collaborative effort with organic medical cannabis compliance and inspection groups, cannabis industry professionals, cannabis lobbying groups, patients, agricultural experts, cannabis security professionals, and more. The KSAA was also reviewed by the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) and it meets all the recommendations of the KHI impact study done on medical cannabis and Kansas and, it was also approved by FOCUS, the leading cannabis industry regulatory group. Finally, the KSAA is a Kansas based bill that protects patients and protects Kansas and is focused on our unique needs, fiscally, culturally, and ecologically.

In closing, I encourage you to review the KSAA, utilize its language in this bill then support and advance SB 155.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Finney", written in a cursive style.

Rep. Gail A. Finney

**Committees:** Insurance, Financial Institutions & Pensions, Transportation & Public Safety

**Kansas Safe Access Act**  
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