

## Written testimony as a proponent of SB155

None of you know me however you likely know someone that has similar health issues/problems as I do. I currently reside in Sedgwick County and I am a Crohn's Disease patient and have been since I was diagnosed in 2000 when I was a sophomore in high school. I had surgery in 2003 to remove a section of my intestines that were damaged by the inflammation that this disease causes even though I had been on traditional FDA approved medication at the time to treat the disease. Prior to the surgery I would hurt so bad that I would buckle at the knees and drop to the fetal position as it was the only comfortable position I could find and that is saying it lightly. There was also the fact that I could not eat during the flare ups of the Crohn's. Traditional narcotic pain medication not only did not help with the pain fully it is also not recommended by gastroenterologist due to the possibility of constipation which in turn complicates the Crohn's disease even further especially during flare ups. Moving forward to around 2010-2011 I had another flare up to where I was bleeding internally from the area that they had done the surgery and the Crohn's had returned and ended up causing me to be hospitalized. Currently I do not have an active flare up however there are times that I do have stomach problems (that's what I call it when it's not a full flare up) that do cause me pain and also nausea and in turn sometimes the inability to eat. These symptoms can come on at any time unexpectedly and sometimes cause embarrassment. I know that I am only a single person and can't really make a difference by myself however there are a large number of people just like me that have symptoms that are mild compared to mine and then others that are on the extreme side of severe compared to mine. There are currently some good FDA approved medications on the market that address these issues however they are not for everyone and some have some severe side effects. The reason i am emailing you is to show my support for this Bill in hopes of it becoming a law. Like I said there are medications on the market now that are designed to help with Crohn's however some of the more complex/better medications have some severe side effects. The other problem with these medications is that they are sometimes very expensive and insurance does not always cover them. I support cannabis for medical consumption as there are several reports and documentation of it helping with inflammation, appetite stimulant and various other benefits. The reason I support cannabis for medical consumption is because it would provide patients suffering from not only the disease that I have but various other disease's a cheaper option that has similar benefits as some of the more expensive medications, less side effects than most medications and also a natural non synthetic option for treatment. I personally prefer to take natural non synthetic medications if available as it is not as harsh on the organs that process the medication as synthetic medications can be. If cannabis was made legal for medical consumption it would add another tool for patients that qualify to use that is in my opinion safer and more effective than some of the "better" more expensive FDA approved medications that are created by pharmaceuticals.

Like I said I know I am one person that has an opinion but hopefully I have not fallen on deaf ears. When you are thinking about this bill please keep in mind your self's and your loved ones and if they were to fall ill or get diagnosed with one of these qualifying disorders/diseases wouldn't you want to have available as many options as possible to help treat the disease or the symptoms of the disease. I don't support the outright recreational consumption of cannabis however I feel that providing another tool for patients and doctors to use to help provide better quality of life is the right thing to do.

Thank You,

Jeremiah Malcom

Jeremiah M. Malcom <jeremiahm@malcomhome.com