



# Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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**Testimony in Opposition of Senate Bill 155**  
Before the Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Kirk D. Thompson, Director  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
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Chairman LaTurner 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 of SB 155 which would create the Kansas Cannabis Compassion and Care Act and legalize the use of marijuana with regard to certain debilitating medical conditions.

I have had the opportunity to review SB 155 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 is lengthy and complex as it 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" is not good for our state.

In support of our opposing 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, meaning 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.

- Marinol, a synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, has been approved by the FDA for treatment of some of the conditions addressed in the proposed legislation. 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, or 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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