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**Testimony in Support of HB 2244
Before the House Judiciary Committee
March 12, 2019**

House Bill 2244 provides a different approach to allow the use of cannabidiol (CBD) oil with a limited amount of THC, which I believe gets us to the point where we can provide parents and adults an option for managing debilitating medical conditions.

Currently, the only FDA-approved CBD medicine for treatment of specific seizure disorders is Epidiolex. It is a prescription medicine that is used to treat seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) or Dravet syndrome in patients 2 years of age and older. Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) is a type of epilepsy with multiple different types of seizures, particularly stiffening and drop seizures, and is present in 2-5% of children with childhood epilepsy. Dravet syndrome is a rare (1:15,700 children), catastrophic, lifelong form of epilepsy with frequent and/or prolonged seizures. The cost of a 100 ml bottle of Epidiolex as found on GoodRx this past weekend was \$1,298.10 at Wal-Mart. Interestingly, the type of CBD used in Epidiolex is derived from marijuana, a Schedule 1 drug. However, Epidiolex is classified as a Schedule 5 drug, which has a low potential for abuse.

Today, you will hear many stories from families who are searching for alternative management of seizure disorders for their children. They want a safe alternative to high-priced medicine for their children. They are not asking to legalize cannabis, not urging its sale in Kansas. They are not asking for coverage by insurance companies. Their children are suffering. They are parents searching for answers and are asking you to pass HB 2244.

The bill requires third party independent lab testing for this treatment oil. It must be free of plant material. It provides an affirmative defense if a person is stopped for possession of the oil if they meet the conditions in the bill. As an oil-based product, it has zero interest from those who use marijuana recreationally. If they wanted to try to get high on this oil by drinking it, they should be close to a restroom as it will likely produce diarrhea. A person wanting to get high using marijuana it would be much cheaper for them to buy it locally and have fewer side effects.

You have many written-only pieces of testimony. I just want to highlight one among those, Rep. Mike Ball's. Rep. Ball has served in the Alabama legislature since 2002, and led the effort to get Alabama's version of HB 2244 passed. Before his election to the legislature, he served as a state trooper in the Alabama Highway Patrol for eight years and then spent 14 years with the Major

Crimes Unit of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation. If anyone has the pulse of law enforcement, it's Mike Ball. I have spoken with and e-mailed Mike several times. He is passionate about providing comfort to these children. If he has said it once to me, he has said it a dozen times, "these children are not criminals." His commitment and the passion of Alabama families was the force behind that state's version of HB 2244, which passed the Alabama House 100-0.

Alabama approached this issue in a deliberate and thoughtful way. They relied on research, from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, and funded by the Alabama legislature, to guide their decisions. That research aided the development Epidiolex. Their studies reported overall sustained improvement in seizure control over a six-month period when using CBD oil therapy.

I believe this legislation is a balanced approach to enabling parents and adults to relieve some of the suffering they experience daily. It provides an affirmative defense if a person is stopped or apprehended with this oil in their possession, and can show they meet the conditions in the bill. It's time to allow Kansas residents options for their children's health.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2244.