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Senator Gene Sullentrop
Chairman

Senator Ed Berger
Vice Chairman

Senator Barbara Bollier
Ranking Minority Member

Dear Committee Members,

As the former United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, I am writing this letter in support of medical marijuana. My former office has spent years representing the government and prosecuting countless defendants for marijuana related crimes. I have seen firsthand that the continued prohibition of marijuana has proven to be a failure and a waste of taxpayers' money and law enforcement resources at the state and federal level.

It is my position that medical cannabis should be regulated by the government for multiple reasons. First, citizens with qualifying medical conditions should be able to seek treatment from a plant that has been shown over the years by expert medical and scientific evidence to provide treatment and relief. Medical cannabis is a safe alternative to opioid pain medication, which is destroying families and communities. To that end, as a former US Attorney, I believe that resources and taxpayer funds should be allocated toward investigating, prosecuting and incarcerating violent criminals instead of non-violent sick or disabled citizens, who do not want to rely upon addictive opioid pain medication with dangerous side effects for treatment. As such, this legislation is not only patient friendly but is supportive of law enforcement as well.

Furthermore, if the government regulates medical cannabis, this will take the production, distribution and sale of marijuana out of the hands of criminals. Instead, a regulated medical cannabis industry will result in business enterprises, job creation, employee wages, and desperately needed revenue for the state of Kansas, as we have seen firsthand in states such as Colorado, California, Oregon, and Washington. For example, the Colorado Department of Revenue reported total cannabis sales of \$5.7 billion since January 2014 when cannabis sales began. These funds went to legitimate business enterprises, employee wages, and tax revenue as opposed to criminal enterprises. Those communities are now significantly safer and more productive with fewer criminal enterprises and more business opportunities.

In conclusion, I am in full support of medical marijuana in Kansas and our nation for the reasons set forth above. I would be happy to testify before representatives and/or special committee

members concerning this matter. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to discussing this matter further.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry R. Grissom", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barry R. Grissom

United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, 2010-2016