

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak as a proponent for SB No.113.for the Veterans First Act for the legalization of medical cannabis. My name is Jeannie Teske and I am speaking as a patient in who is in desperate need of medical cannabis. I am a 52-year-old female who was a clinically trained master's level Social Worker who was upwardly mobile in her career in a local hospital in Topeka and engaging in social advocacy for seniors, then the bottom dropped out of my world when I had a brain tumor erode through the frontal portion of my skull. It was so prominent that it was visible from the outside. It looked as if I had been in a car accident, somewhat like a "goose egg" and was the size of a half dollar on the front of my forehead. Prior to my brain tumor, I was very active. I never had headaches until shortly before the tumor began to erode through bone. It came up quickly and I asked one of my friends who was an RN would help for my odd headaches that just popped up on the front, right quarter section of my head. She suggested I see my doctor and said that Ibuprofen. We never expect these things to happen to us when we are thirty 38 years of age. July 5, 2006 was when the bottom dropped out of my world. That is the day that I had a frontal craniotomy and mass resection to remove the brain tumor. Now I suffer with right frontal volume loss and focal encephalomalacia, right subinsular and corona radiata lacunar infarcts, depression and intractable chronic post-traumatic daily headaches, and only sleep a few on average 5-6 hours at night on a good night since the tumor.

I'm an intellect and having prior experience in the medical field, always was a proponent for medical cannabis but never actually came forward and fought for the cause. I have worked as a Hospice Social worker and worked with dying patients and I also love to research the brain for enjoyment. I also have researched the healing and pain-relieving effects that marijuana has on a wide range of conditions from mental health conditions, cancers, neurological and so on but it never really hit me that it needed to be legalized until I had a brain tumor and every modality, I tried did not stop my suffering. I am a strong woman. I will remind you again, that I only took over the counter, pain medicine while the tumor was eroding thorough my skull and still working a full-time job happily. The headaches were mis-diagnosed for years as migraines. I have had them every day since 2006. It wasn't until two years ago that I finally received the appropriate diagnosis. I am being followed by the head of KU Neurology and the Headache Specialist at KU Medical is my Neurologist and we are still unable to get my headaches under control. Through the years the side effects of the medications I had developed extra pyramidal symptoms that were so bad, and people thought I had MS. I gained 45 pounds and 50 pounds another time on another medication. One medication affected my eyesight so badly that I couldn't even see to drive, and my daughter was young and in school and I was a single disabled mother by this time. I have tried many different modalities of treatment, but nothing is effective in treating my headaches. I am just coming off a nineteen-day stint of 9/10 plus day of pain level. I was only able to sleep approximately 5 hours a night during that time and that was not uninterrupted. During times of great pain like this, I cannot sleep in my bed because, I can't have anything touch my head. If I even touch my hair, it sends shock waves of pain though my entire of body. Fighting this level of pain is emotionally and physically exhausting. My type of headaches are also nick named "suicide headaches" because of the level of intensity. It wears me out so much that my limbs feel like "they are 50 pounds" and I can't even smile but the other bad part is that the stroke symptoms start to show when I get over tired. As a younger person who always took a lot of

pride in my intellect, it bothers me a great deal when I have issues with thought blocking or slow finding a word and this happens when I am over tired because of high pain days.

Medical marijuana has been proven to help improve sleep, depression and with headaches. I have been prescribed opioids, but I was always worried about taking them because I saw what they did to people. Therefore, I wait until, I am like a dog chasing my tail so to speak, and the pain is so bad that I can't stand it so bad when I finally decide to take one. My daughter and family have seen me suffer and it is hard for them. As a mother, I try to explain why I don't take the opioids, but she doesn't want to see me hurting just like as a mother, I never want to see my child suffer. According to Safe Access "A Viable strategy to Address the Opioid Crisis" report 2016 (safeaccessnow.org d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net) on average 46 people die from each day (16,000 each year) from prescription opioid overdose. The rate of overdose has quadrupled over the last 15 years. If we have a safe alternative for desperate people such as cannabis to treat pain effectively, compassionately than it is only logical that we should pass SB 113 and make it legal for my brothers and sisters in arms and all Kansans in need treatment. I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I have done a great deal of research on my specific case and medical marijuana is my last hope for a better quality of life and a chance to experience one day without pain. The headaches and disruption in sleep has become worse in the past 2 years and the medical team and I have unable to ascertain the exact reason that this is occurring but one thing that I am certain. If you have mercy today and pass this bill, I will have relief, and sleep, and have improvement in my symptoms, in depression, and finally with my horrific symptoms of intractable post-traumatic headaches.