

To: Senate Public Health and Welfare

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: March 13, 2019

RE: Opposition for SB 113

I want to thank Chairman Suellentrop and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 113.

The League of Municipalities does not have a stance on whether medical cannabis should be legalized in Kansas; however, our members believe the legislature should carefully weigh the impact of medical cannabis on law enforcement and human resources and provide cities a portion of any funds to offset the impact of medical cannabis. Local governments will experience significant impacts and revenue is required to offset these costs. Funding for local governments should be addressed at the onset.

Our members strongly believe cities should have the ability to opt-in to allowing dispensaries in their city. Additionally, cities must have the ability to regulate the location of retail and production operations as well as public, workplace, and vehicle consumption of medical cannabis, and any other needed regulation that may arise.

In addition, Kansas should delay implementation of medical cannabis to give time to study any issues that might result from the passage of medical cannabis and to allow cities necessary time to enact possible zoning changes, provide additional training to law enforcement on how to deal with impaired driving from medical cannabis, and training on how to identify legal versus illegal medical cannabis. Additional time before implementation is critical for cities to acquire resources, develop policies and ordinances, also to provide necessary training and public education. Ideally, implementation should be phased in over time to allow for response to impacts and unintended consequences. Because of the numerous effects medical cannabis could have on local governments, the implementation task force established in New Section 13 should have representation from local units of government.

We respectfully ask this Committee to address these concerns before passing SB 113 to the full Senate for consideration.