Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Opposed to SB 113
March 14, 2019

Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association submits testimony opposing SB 113.

The Kansas Sheriff's Association opposes this bill for several reasons. This testimony will only concentrate on three issues.

Under the House Bill that was passed in 2018 for the growing and research of hemp, several regulations were put into place to regulate the THC content, which is the psychoactive part of the plant to create a high. Under HB 2173, which was introduced in 2019, the regulatory requirements would be struck. and farmers will be able to grow Hemp unchecked with a level of THC higher than .03% which will create a high. This new bill, repealing the legal and regulatory structure of the current law, has been introduced before Hemp is even being grown. This is very concerning. We see the same thing happening with SB 113.

Currently, in the United States there is a drug called Dronabinol, also known as Marinol or Syndros. This pill contains a controlled level of THC and is prescribed by a doctor. This pill helps cancer patients coping with the side effects of chemotherapy. The pill does not create a high for the patient.

Secondly, we have always heard that marijuana helps people who have glaucoma. A recent study from Indiana University on December 17th, 2018, showed that the taking of cannibals, marijuana, actually raises the pressure in the eyes. The study stated: "found that CBD caused an increase in pressure inside the eye of 18 percent for at least four hours after use." Quoted from Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science. Essentially, what this means is a rise in eye pressure is not good for glaucoma patients. On top of that, the Glaucoma Society has publically stated that marijuana smoke is not good for glaucoma; in fact any type of smoke is not good for glaucoma patients.

We have heard for years from the marijuana industry that marijuana, CBD, THC is good to treat ailments without a lot of research. Now, since so many states have passed medicinal and recreational marijuana laws, more research is being conducted that contrasts what big marijuana advocates have been saying for several years. Finally, THC is contained in a pill, prescribed by the doctor to give patients relief of pain and other ailments. The pill does not get the patient HIGH. Marijuana supporters do not like this option because they don't experience the HIGH. It is the psychoactive effect that concerns law enforcement.

Finally, we would express to the members of the committee that there is no difference between medical marijuana and recreational marijuana. Due to the high THC strands being produced now and the different ways to extract the THC the levels can range from 30% to 90% THC. In California and Colorado, big marijuana manufacturers have been producing THC liquid ranging from 85% to 90% THC that can be smoked through a vape. This is not our parents' or grandparents' marijuana from the 1960's. This marijuana is so potent the Denver area hospitals are seeing marijuana induced sickness cases on average 4 times a day.

The vape cartridges are packaged for medical and recreational use. The packaging targets children just like big tobacco targeted children several years ago. The packing consists of cartoon characters which could attract very young children. In California, the doctor will give a patient a note that says "eligible to receive medical marijuana"; however, the doctor will not put down a dosage or strength due to liability concerns. I don't think in Kansas we want doctors prescribing a supposed medication without parameters.

I have attached photos as evidence of what vape cartridges look like as well as the labeling. I hope the KSA has provided some education other than what big marijuana portrays so they can make even more money on a product that can contribute to even more addiction issues plus other social ills.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Jeffrey T. Easter
Legislative Chair for the Kansas Sheriff's Association