



**Testimony to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
In Opposition to SB113  
March 13, 2019**

Chairman Suellentrop and Committee Members

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police are opposed to the legalization of medical marijuana in the State of Kansas.

The KACP is perplexed that an industry can come into the state and propose to legalize a drug that is still illegal on the federal level. If a pharmaceutical company came to the Kansas Legislature and proposed legalizing a Schedule 1 drug at the state level because the pharmaceutical company did not want to go through the accepted standards and practices required by the Food and Drug Administration, our belief is that the members of the legislature would rightfully show the pharmaceutical company the door. But, this is not the case with the marijuana industry.

Marijuana, in the form proposed in this legislation, is not medicine. And it cannot be prescribed, as many proponents suggest. In the form suggested in the legislation it is simply not medicine.

And, medicine is not legislated. It is researched, tested and approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Like every other medicine you have in your medicine cabinet.

Marijuana is classified in the Controlled Substances Act as a Schedule 1 drug. The characteristics of that type of drug is that generally, they have a very high potential for addiction and abuse and have no accepted medical use. Other drugs in this category are: Ecstasy, GHB, Heroin, LSD, and Peyote.

In the past several years, research has been done to determine if there is an accepted medical use for marijuana. The literature we have reviewed for the preparation of this testimony indicates there has been some progress and at least four pharmaceutical grade medicines are on the market. The products; Marinol, Syndros, Cesamet, and Epidiolex are examples of medicines that produce the desired relief for medical conditions that involve suffering and debility without violating the law when taken as prescribed. Additionally, these drugs can be prescribed for; a specific dosage, frequency, type, and concentration. This is something medical marijuana cannot do with a written certification through a dispensary. Why are we legalizing access to drugs with minimal or no quality control when FDA approved medicines are available. The KACP opposes legalizing any scheduled drug through any venue other than established Food and Drug Administration approved pharmaceutical processes.

Another concern of the KACP is that the marijuana of today is not the marijuana of decades past. It is much more potent. It is more like a new designer narcotic drug than natural marijuana. Decades ago high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) marijuana had a THC concentration of about 3 to 5%. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse: A rise in Marijuana's THC Content*) Today, it is not uncommon to have plant flowers that are 30% potency. With hybridization, if it hasn't already, it will pass 40% potency. (*National Center for Biotechnology Information: Changes in Cannabis Potency over the Last Two Decades (1995-2014) - Analysis of Current Data in the United States*) Purification processes of marijuana plant matter can produce THC concentrates in the high 80% to low 90% plus potency range. This is dangerous. (*Chronic State video <https://vimeo.com/280127474>*)

Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police believe that many advocates for the legalization of marijuana are well intentioned. We don't question their sincerity or intentions. We believe they feel this is a good policy decision to take. But the consequences of this policy change don't care about intentions or sincerity.

Advocates and some legislators share heartfelt stories of children with chronic diseases or health problems to convince the public that this legislation is just for them. As police chiefs our hearts go out to these children and families and those who have to deal with these major illnesses. Opposition from the KACP does not come from our lack of compassion for those who are suffering. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our hearts break for those who suffer.

Though we have great compassion for those who are suffering from debilitating illnesses we cannot endorse or even ignore the attempt to provide relief through illegal methods. We all take an oath to protect and serve all segments of society. It is our opinion that this legislation has the potential to cause far more harm than good.

But the proposed legislation doesn't stop there. It legalizes marijuana consumption for anyone with long list illnesses. Only a few of which there is any credible evidence that the drug would positively impact.

The KACP is urging our legislators to not let those who are pulling at your heart lead you to bypass the processes and the systems that have been protecting each and every one of us from harmful substances for more than a century.

If marijuana has medicinal benefits, it should be regulated in the exact same manner as all other medicine is in the United States. Which is through the legitimate research and oversight of the Food and Drug Administration. To date, the Food and Drug Administration has found no legitimate use for raw marijuana which is allowed under this legislation. The KACP will continue to oppose medical marijuana unless and until it is approved and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Then and only then should marijuana be considered for medicinal purpose.

The KACP is concerned that in every state that has legalized medical or recreational use of marijuana there has been an increase in: Underage exposure, accidental ingestion, driving under the influence, job related accidents, drug treatment and emergency room admissions.

There are many reasons to be concerned with medical marijuana. And, doctors cannot legally prescribe it. Doctors cannot dose it. Pharmacists cannot legally distribute it. It just cannot be regulated in a manner that other drugs are. That should frighten everyone. The proposed bill defines physicians as what were normally think of as our doctor. It also allows certified nurse-midwives, advanced practice registered nurses and physicians to write certifications for medical marijuana. And because they cannot prescribe marijuana under federal law these physicians will provide access to a drug primarily ingested in a manner they know causes major health risks and death. This violates the basic premise of the Hippocratic Oath; to do no harm.

Additionally, do legislators really want a certified nurse-midwife writing a written certification for medical marijuana? The proposed legislation allows a certified nurse-midwife, or an advanced practice registered nurse to write a written certification for people with: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, cancer, Crohn's Disease, spinal cord injuries, epilepsy, glaucoma, or the long list of other medical conditions. This is just wrong and inappropriate.

So, why does the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police oppose this legislation? We have a duty to tell the citizens of our state that we don't want them to be victims of the unintended consequences of this legislation.

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police urges you to not vote for legalization of medical marijuana in the state of Kansas.

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