



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare

From: Rachelle Colombo, Director of Government Affairs

Date: March 14, 2019

Re: SB 113; Medical Cannabis Act

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide in opposition to SB 113, allowing for the medical use of cannabis. SB 113 establishes medical use for cannabis and the infrastructure necessary for its regulation. While we appreciate the growing interest around this subject, we do not support legislation that undermines patient protections by circumventing Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval required for the legal medical use and prescription of drugs.

Kansas physicians believe the best avenue for protecting patient safety is through scientific evidence based research, education and training. Cannabis has not been clinically proven to have effective medical use at this time. Until the federal government schedules cannabis and its derivatives differently so that it can undergo more testing and be evaluated for potential medical use, we cannot support legalizing it under medical auspices. The Kansas Medical Society supports the FDA process for all drugs and does not support legislating medical practice or prescriptive authority without demonstrated scientific clinical efficacy of such drugs.

Further, cannabis and its derivatives are not standardized in purity, dosage, or consistently recognized for specific contraindications. There is not clinical data around its efficacy or potential unintended impact on other health conditions.

HB 2244 puts physicians in an unfortunate position of being asked to recommend or provide something without clinical value – which contradicts the basis of medical standards and sets a precedent for legislating medical practice. We respectfully request your opposition to the advancement of SB 113. Thank you.