

February 22, 2021

Connie Bahner
Federal and State Affairs Committee Assistant

RE: HB 2184

Dear Ms. Bahner,

I am pleased to see the Kansas House is considering a Medical Marijuana bill for the following reasons;

1. The cannabis plant has many therapeutic health uses and benefits that are just now becoming recognized in our country, but have been utilized in other countries for centuries. The body's endocannabinoid system is not even listed in most high school textbooks, but a keyword search for "endocannabinoid system" on MayoClinic.com results in seven reports of completed and ongoing lab tests on various health conditions and this system. Cannabis works on pain, PTSD, anxiety, epilepsy, and has been shown to benefit and treat patients with cancer, among many other health issues.
2. There are only a few States left that have not legalized or decriminalized cannabis, including most surrounding Kansas. A recent study by Fort Hayes State University showed that 63 percent of Kansans support legalization at some level.
3. While Kansas struggles financially, other states with legal cannabis have experienced dramatic increases in revenues from cannabis sales and business taxes. Unfortunately, many Kansans have contributed to their revenue growth through relocation or visitation to those states.

My list could go on and on. The old reasons for not developing our own medical (and recreational) cannabis programs have become impotent in the face of so many other surrounding States who do have programs. I encourage all Kansas legislators to vote "yes" for this bill.

Best Regards,

Gary Upah
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