

The Committee of Federal and State Affairs,

My name is Lillian Wilson and I am licensed and practicing Pharmacist at a community hospital in Wyandotte County, Kansas. I am certified in Cannabis Medicine & Science by the University of Vermont and maintain first-hand knowledge of the medical marijuana industry.

Allow me to preface this testimony by stating; my understanding, knowledge and opinions regarding medical marijuana are strictly my own. My testimony does not reflect the views or policies of my employer.

After reviewing HB-2184, I would like to express professional concern over language cited on page 22 line 40(b) - ***“The smoking, combustion or vaporization of medical marijuana is prohibited.*** “ and page 23 line 22(c) ***“The secretary shall not approve any petition that seeks approval of a form or method of using medical marijuana that involves smoking, combustion or vaporization.***

As a mother of three, I understand and appreciate the concerns regarding smokable marijuana products. However, as a Pharmacist, I must uphold and respect the efficacy of inhaled cannabinoids. I encourage lawmakers to reinstate the smoking, combusting and vaporizing of medical marijuana in HB-2184 for three primary reasons.

1) Inhalation is the fastest method of relief for medical marijuana.

The human lungs are the fastest delivery method of medical marijuana with blood levels reaching peak concentration at 5-10 minutes after inhalation. When dosing medical marijuana orally (by mouth) it goes through a process called first-pass metabolism. This is where the liver metabolizes (breaks down) medications/cannabis. Every person’s liver works differently when it metabolizes drugs, so the onset of effect for orally dosed medical marijuana ranges from 15 minutes-2 hours (with peak blood levels ranging from 75 minutes-7 hours). For patients who need pain relief from their stage 4 metastatic cancer, or those patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis who are having trouble moving because their joints hurt so badly- 10 minutes vs 2 hours can feel like a lifetime when battling the overbearing pain caused by certain conditions.

2) Inhalation allows for easily titratable dosing.

The quick onset of action, noted above, allows patients to better control their cannabis dosing. A patient can take one inhalation, then wait 15-20 minutes to see if they require another dose to reach the desired effect or if that single inhalation was enough. When titrating oral medical marijuana the longer onset of action means patients could be waiting up to 2 hours before they take another dose if that initial dose was not sufficient. If the patient does not wait long enough it could lead to consuming too much and leading to negative side effects, like increased anxiety.

Lillian Wilson, PharmD

lillykwilson22@gmail.com | Olathe, KS | Kansas City, KS

3) The patients that benefit the most from inhaled medical marijuana are the ones that need it the most.

Patients who might require high doses of opioid medication (i.e. hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, etc). These patients could include patients with cancer, Rheumatoid Arthritis, chronic pain, and Crohn's disease. Patients can begin to build a tolerance to opioid medication, thus requiring a higher dose to gain the same effect. The detrimental side effects of opioids remain the same though. Medical marijuana can help to decrease the amount of opioids patients use and can aide in breakthrough pain. Inhaled medical marijuana will provide these patients with the fastest relief for their pain without increasing further risk of respiratory depression (trouble breathing).

By banning the inhalation of smokable marijuana products, a disservice is being done to tens of thousands of Kansas patients who need relief in a time frame that only an inhaled product can suffice. We must respect that medical marijuana exists to help patients who need it. Those patients who have not received relief through other means. Many patients seek medical marijuana as a means for relief that they otherwise couldn't afford in their elderly age. Re-assigning the use of inhaled, combusted or vaporized medical marijuana to the approved methods list is good patient care - something we all strive to do as healthcare professionals.

If further clarification or elaboration is requested, I would be happy to provide additional testimony. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lillian K. Wilson

Lillian Wilson, PharmD