



2/22/21

House Federal & State Affairs Committee
Chair, Rep. John Barker
Constituent Testimony
HB 2184

Chairman Barker & Members of the Committee:

Thank you for drafting and hearing HB 2184. Kansas businesses and constituents eagerly anticipate the arrival of medical cannabis in the state. One of the very last in the nation to pass this reform, there is at least one benefit in being slow to action. That is the opportunity to look around at neighboring states, and those further away, to find the best legislation and enact it to the benefit of all Kansans.

The most obvious cannabis regulatory comparison comes between Missouri and Oklahoma. Missouri charges exorbitant fees and limits business development at every level. These policies clearly lead to lawsuits, shortages, limited patient access and limited business success, which results in limited tax dollars generated in the state. By comparison, Oklahoma's medical cannabis program is robust and access is reasonable for patients and businesses. As a result, the market is thriving and the free-market economy is growing.

As a licensed hemp cultivator in the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Industrial Hemp Research Program for two years, and having recently submitted the license application for a third season, I urge you to lower licensing fees for medical cannabis cultivators to a reasonable level that opens the market to Kansas farmers. Growing cannabis is an expensive endeavor on many fronts and failure will occur with crops in the first few years for new growers. Please do not put artificial caps on the market with exorbitant licensing fees and impossible-to-reach restrictions that only benefit multi-state corporations and prohibit Kansas farmers and small business owners from participating.

Please pass meaningful cannabis reform with low fees for business, reasonable regulations and broad access for patients. Swing the door all the way open. Kansas businesses have a lot of ground to make up in this industry. As you are likely aware, federal law will soon change and cannabis will be descheduled. If the Kansas legislature does not pass medical cannabis in advance of federal reform, Kansas businesses will never catch up. Instead, established businesses in surrounding states will capitalize on the market to our detriment.

Please act urgently to pass meaningful cannabis reform in Kansas that provides reasonable access for patients. In order for that to happen, we need a regulatory framework that does not place undue burden on growers, processors, retailers and medical professionals.

Thank you and kind regards,

Sarah Stephens

CEO, [Tallgrass Hemp & Cannabis](#)

316.619.7612

#19 E Sequoia Dr.

Wichita, KS 67206