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SB560 MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATION ACT

PROPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

MARK LUTHI

SELF-REPRESENTED

markluthi77@gmail.com 316-215-2790

Thank you, Chairman and members of the Committee for providing me with the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 560. My name is Mark Luthi and in the past 18 years I have had two kidney transplants. I was born and raised in Kansas and support the legalization and decriminalization of cannabis in Kansas.

I have been on multiple drugs throughout my life living with a kidney transplant, and a lot of these drugs have caused many negative side effects, such as nausea, anxiety, and depression. I have been prescribed countless other drugs to help combat these side effects, and they in turn only cause more side effects. I have found that using various forms of cannabis has helped alleviate these issues with little to no side effects.

Also, as a kidney transplant patient, I was given multiple opioids for pain such as OxyContin and Oxycodone. I was prescribed opioids to help the pain and soon started to notice a dependence was growing. I was becoming addicted to the doctor's medicine and was needing higher doses in order to continue masking the pain. I weened myself of the pain pills by micro dosing cannabis and have now been off them for four years.

My doctors are aware of everything I am currently putting in my body, and in the past couple months I have received reports that my health is the best it has been in 18 years and the medicine that I have chosen is improving my health. At one time I was on five blood pressure medications, and I have been able to reduce that to only two.

I'm not going to bore you with the facts of how cannabis has helped millions of people all over the world, but I hope after you have read and heard countless testimonies that you all will do the right thing and legalize and decriminalize cannabis, a natural plant, in this great state of Kansas. Allowing people to choose their own treatment is a human right. Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Mark Luthi
Kansas resident