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Oral In-Person Proponent Testimony for SB 360 Medical Marijuana Regulation Act

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to give my oral testimony in support of SB360.

Let me introduce you to my story by giving you a brief history of some of my many medical escapades. In January 1975 I was in a serious automobile accident in Lawrence, KS and had to have Harrington Rods placed up and down my spine. Then around 2000 I was in another accident just a few blocks from my home by a teenage girl which left me with a broken neck and resulted in having my neck fused. About 2 years later, I was in an ATV accident in which part of my right foot was cut off. As a result of these accidents, I must have a hospital bed to sleep in as I cannot lay flat to sleep or I cannot breathe. I also have problems with sitting for any period of time.

During the course of all these surgeries and the after treatments, I was continually given one kind of pain pill or another and every time I would seek help from a new physician, they simply wrote a prescription for an even stronger pain killer. Eventually, I was addicted to pain killers that weren't really helping me with the pain. At one point, the first surgeon I saw said I needed to get off the pain killers because they were killing me, but as you can imagine that is not an easy task. At one point, I was contemplating suicide because I could no longer tolerate the pain. Then, a friend told me I needed to get some pot and smoke it. After 3 months of smoking pot, I was off all my pain pills, and I could finally get a decent night's sleep. The pot didn't stop the pain, but it eased it enough and relaxed me enough to be able to sleep.

I support this medical marijuana regulation act for all Kansans like me who need this kind of relief. I urge you to pass this bill to help those of us who choose not to become addicted to pain killers.

Thank you for your time.