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Janet Stanek, Secretary

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SB 560 Testimony

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Neutral Testimony

Oral in-person testimony

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Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Chairman Olson and members of the committee, I am Kay Haug, State Registrar for Vital Statistics and Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral, written testimony for SB 560.

SB 560 authorizes the creation of the Kansas Medical Marijuana Regulation Act, providing for the establishment of the program dispensing cannabis preparations to registered patients who have qualified medical conditions as diagnosed by a licensed physician. This is a multi-agency program involving KDHE, KDOR, the Board of Pharmacy, and the Board of Healing Arts. The program functions include establishing patient applications, issuing identification cards to qualified applicants and caregivers, providing health care provider guidelines, and creating processes for growers, processors and dispensaries.

KDHE is instructed to establish a process to certify eligibility for an applicant to receive medical marijuana products based on information from a healthcare provider and issue identification cards for individuals with qualified medical needs and for caregivers. This registration status will authorize the patient to receive and possess the appropriate cannabis product. Section 9 refers to assigning a unique 24-character identification number to each registered patient and caregiver. We absolutely agree with unique identification numbers; however, we suggest removing the language stating how many characters the number must contain.

KDHE would implement and maintain a secure, real-time information system to house data and the system would also exchange registration confirmations statewide, on a 24/7/365 basis with licensed retail dispensaries and law enforcement. Furthermore, we would develop a de-identified reporting system.

Onboarding of a director and corresponding staff along with development of an IT system solution will be amongst the first tasks required. Identifying system specifications, submitting a request for purchase, conducting thorough testing of this new system and ensuring integration with partner agencies are amongst our duties. Regulations will also need written.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments.