

Mr. Chair, Vice Chair & Committee members,

Having experience of the challenges you are facing; I can appreciate the time and consideration that has been given to the subject of "How can Medical Marijuana benefit the citizens of Kansas?"

Kansans needs the same protections that other states have enjoyed by passing legislation for Medical Marijuana. I have seen many individuals that have resorted to breaking the law for the safety of self and family members. In my neighborhood there have been 3 families having to make a choice on the advice of their family physician to use Medical Marijuana for a family member. One household moved to Colorado, one family relocated to Neighboring Missouri and one remains our neighbor. In your opinion should the remaining household risk losing financial stability because they cannot relocate to a state where the law allows the use of Medical Marijuana.

While serving the great state of Kansas for eight years there were many citizens BEGGING for help. Will Kansas Legislators help? Will Kansas Legislators continue to ignore the many that need the intervention? I hope not.

The financial benefits for the State are Kansas would greatly increase our ability to channel resources in many areas, such Mental & Physical health awareness and Foster Care Programs. Arkansas' medical cannabis sales, having already reached \$205 million so far this year, are close to outpacing 2021's sales record of \$264.9 million. These resources would help Kansas immensely.

Another area that has been overlooked are new businesses startups because of passing legislation for Medical Marijuana.

Because Marijuana is a Schedule 1 drug the tax problems are very different than what business owners and accountants are familiar with. After speaking with Dr. Randy Shepard who has extensive knowledge in this area, I believe the Kansas Legislature could improve the likely hood of a successful venture.

Thank you for serving our great State of Kansas and God Bless you all.

Willie Dove