

March 15th, 2023

SB 135 Proponent Testimony

Kimberly Krueger, Kansas Cannabis Coalition Secretary

State Federal and State Affairs Committee 144-S

KANSAS CANNABIS COALITION, INC. Recommendations for SB-135

Thank you Senator Thompson and Committee Members for allowing me to speak as a proponent for the passage of a medical cannabis bill. My name is Kimberly Kruger and I am the secretary for the Kansas Cannabis Coalition. With respect for the committee's time I would like to discuss just a couple of highlights and some recommendations by the Coalition.

Our recommendations already have language created by the Revisor's office and are incorporated into HB-2417.

- Section 14: Adoption of Rules and Regulations
 - Kansans should not have to wait an additional 2 years once legislation is approved. Other states have created successful programs in much less time. Kansas residents are leaving the state to get safe access. A reciprocity statement is recommended..
- Section 30: Products
 - We recommend the following products to be added to this list:
 - Vaginal/anal suppositories
 - Topicals/salves (great for arthritis and non-impairing)
 - Nebulizers/Inhalers (desperately needed for emergency treatment of children having seizures)
- Section 32: Licensing Fees
 - **Kansas legislators will fail their constituents if a medical cannabis program is not accessible and affordable to Kansas residents. Without access and affordability, patients will be forced to continue to utilize the illicit markets or break federal law to get safe medicine from a closer, less expensive neighboring state.**
 - All fees are largely inflated. Research shows us that:
 - High licensing fees = increased illicit (black) market
 - High licensing = monopoly of the industry by MSOs whose ultimate goal is to move us to an adult use or 'recreational' cannabis program as quickly as possible. We are solely focused on a medical cannabis program for the state of Kansas.

- Section 61: Privilege tax of 10% on medical cannabis
 - A tax of 10% in addition to state and local sales tax is high in comparison to other states which will again drive patients to the illicit market or neighboring states.
 - 37 states have established a medical cannabis program
 - 22 of those states charge 0% sales tax on medical cannabis
 - 14 states charge a tax rate between 1% and 7%
 - Only 1 state charges 10% (West Virginia)
 - Our neighboring states: Missouri charges 4%; Oklahoma charges 7%

In closing we would like to encourage committee members to review our submitted written testimony. The last survey done by Fort Hays State University shows 70%+ of your Kansas constituents support cannabis use. It is past time to pass legislation ensuring access to safe, affordable, tested cannabis products that will in turn create a new inclusive industry within our state.