

Ellis County Attorney

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Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Attn: Sheila Wodtke, Committee Assistant
Kansas Capitol Building, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: SB 135 - Proponent

Senators:

My name is Robert A. Anderson, Jr. and I am the Ellis County Attorney. **I am a proponent of any legislation that decriminalizes or legalizes cannabis (hemp & marijuana).** Presently, I wish to share my support for SB 135, and I ask that you vote in favor of this bill.

Undoubtedly, the Kansas County & District Attorneys Association (KCDAA), which I am a member of, will oppose this bill. I urge you to remember that while this organization may oppose this bill, there are many prosecutors, a majority I believe, in Kansas who would welcome the legalization or decriminalization of cannabis. I've asked KCDAA to poll their membership on the issue. To my knowledge, they've not done so. I strongly believe that KCDAA, and in particular its leadership, is out of touch with its membership and ultimately the people we serve as elected officials.

The reality is: that in every one of the one-hundred and five counties in Kansas, far more serious crimes are going unfiled and unprosecuted while marijuana cases continue to be prosecuted. My position is and always has been that if even one sexual assault, child sexual abuse case, child physical abuse case, or homicide goes unfiled because we are spending time prosecuting marijuana, then we are failing in our obligations to our community.

It's time to decriminalize and/or legalize cannabis – legalizing medical marijuana would be huge, positive step forward.

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony. I ask that you vote in favor of SB 135.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Anderson, Jr. # 26495
Ellis County Attorney