

March 26, 2024

Kansas Senate Bill 555

NEUTRAL

Written-only Testimony by Lisa Vayda, Pharmacist & Healthcare Economist

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Vayda and I reside in Wichita, in KS Senate District 16 and KS House District 99. I am neutral on Senate Bill 555, creating the medical cannabis pilot program act to establish the medical cannabis pilot program for limited cultivation, processing, and dispensing of medical cannabis and medical cannabis products.

As a Kansas health care provider, economist, and community advocate, I have been involved with harm reduction practices and an advocate of legislation that supports harm reduction. For Kansas patients with medical conditions that may benefit from medical cannabis, the safest and most efficient way to procure medical cannabis would be through a carefully monitored program that includes health care providers and reduces harm at every step rather than illicitly or traveling out of state. This pilot program is a good starting point for that process.

However, for the safety and liability of physicians, pharmacists, and patients, this bill should require monitoring via K-TRACS (the Kansas prescription monitoring program). This would allow the physician to review patient records prior to issuing a certificate for medical cannabis and the pharmacist to review records prior to dispensing medical cannabis. In addition, a pharmacist should be available for consultation to each patient upon dispensing medical cannabis to provide information to the patient regarding any contraindications, side effects, or drug interactions. All labeling, child resistant packaging, and storage should follow the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy regulations as well.

Respectfully submitted,

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