



KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CARING FOR KANSANS

Testimony: SB 555
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
March 28, 2024
By: Tarah Remington-Brown, CEO
Opposition—Written only

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony **opposing SB 555**, on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP). The KAFP represents nearly 2,000 family physicians, resident physicians and medical students across our state. Providing quality health care and resulting in good health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work.

The KAFP advocates for the reclassification of cannabis from a Drug Enforcement Agency classification Schedule I to Schedule II to **facilitate further research** into cannabis and its components and **to allow for the best, evidence-based therapeutic uses**. As a federally classified Schedule I drug, cannabis and its components are in the same category as heroin, LSD, and peyote – drugs with no medical value and a high potential for abuse.

By contrast, Schedule II drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamine, and many opioids, also have a high potential for abuse, but have a currently accepted medical use. The categorization of cannabis as a Schedule I drug allows the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to prohibit access to the drug, complicating clinical trial research into the medical use of marijuana. Four states (GA, HI, KS, PA) have passed legislation to encourage the federal government to reclassify marijuana and cannabis to a less stringent category, mirroring bipartisan federal legislation that would reduce it to a Schedule III drug.

We believe until such time as additional research and FDA-approved cannabinoid medications are developed, **the legalization of these products presents a very real threat to our patients' health**. The KAFP, therefore, opposes SB 555.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the KAFP. We appreciate your thoughtful examination of all matters regarding the health and safety of Kansans.

About Kansas Academy of Family Physicians:

KAFP represents nearly 2,000 active, resident, student and life members across the state. Our member physicians are vibrant and trusted members of their communities and are dedicated to creating a healthier Kansas. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.