

March 28, 2024

Kansas Senate Bill 555

PROPONENT

Written and Oral Testimony by Samuel Jones, Esq.,

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Jones, resident of Wichita, KS and proponent of Senate Bill 555.

This bill is the culmination of thoughtful dialogue and feedback from conservative legislators, medical professionals, university professors, and law enforcement. It addresses all the concerns that have been raised with prior medical cannabis bills, and will avoid the negative consequences from "medical" cannabis programs in other states such as Oklahoma.

- Edibles, smoking, and vaping are not allowed under this bill.
- Patients must be 21 years of age or older.
- A patient's primary care physician or a KDHE appointed doctor must provide the certificate allowing for a patient to purchase medical cannabis, which avoids "doctor shopping" like we have seen in other states.
- It provides law enforcement with bright-line fourth amendment search and seizure criteria for cannabis possession, so that they can immediately identify if possession is legal or not during a traffic stop.
- Most importantly, medical cannabis will be provided to patients solely through Kansas pharmacies.

The FDA issued a report made public this past January that states cannabis has a "currently accepted medical use" and is less harmful than other scheduled drugs. They recommended that cannabis be rescheduled to Schedule III from Schedule I (for context, fentanyl is a Schedule II drug). Rescheduling cannabis is the first step towards federal decriminalization and legalization. If cannabis is decriminalized or legalized at the federal level, then out-of-state cannabis businesses will be able to sell cannabis indiscriminately in Kansas because we will not have passed a legal framework.

This is NOT an opening for a recreational cannabis program, and our polling shows that there is little desire by Kansans to pass a recreational cannabis program in Kansas. This is truly and simply a medical program that will give Kansas patients the medical freedom to choose medical cannabis instead of prescription narcotics to treat their illness.

I ask that you vote YEA on SB 555.

Respectfully submitted,

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