



KANSAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

To: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Kansas State Troopers Association
Bryan Clark, President

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 555 – Legalization of Medical Marijuana

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for taking time today to consider the remarks in opposition to legalization of “medical” marijuana in Kansas on behalf of the Kansas State Troopers Association (KSTA). Our organization represents over 500 troopers, motor carrier inspectors, capital police officers and retirees. Our members serve the citizens of Kansas in the traditional role of supporting and keeping Kansans safe on the highways, including drug interdiction and DUI enforcement.

Senate Bill 555 is rife with problems of enforcement and common sense almost too numerous to detail in the short time frame set out for consideration. The concerns of our members on behalf of the Kansas public include the following:

- Marijuana is classified as a Schedule I Drug by the DEA. What does that mean? “No currently accepted **medical** use and high potential for abuse.”
 - SB 555 ignores long standing Federal law and puts Kansas law enforcement in the position of ignoring and failing to enforce current law with Section 29 of this bill prohibiting enforcement of Federal law.
- The American Medical Association has urged legislatures to delay legalizing cannabis until further research is completed on the public health, medical, economic, and social consequences of its use.
 - As a Schedule I drug little research has been done.

- Physicians, pharmacists, and others that prescribe, handle, or dispense controlled substances pursuant to DEA granted authority would be in immediate jeopardy of losing their ability to prescribe much needed FDA and DEA approved medications to their patients should they be placed in the position of having to dispense this illegal substance.
- The potency of marijuana has increased dramatically over the years with no research on how the higher THC affects the long-term risks.
 - This bill has the staggering percentage of THC at 35%.
- This bill creates a de facto recreational marijuana scheme by hamstringing the ability of law enforcement to verify validity of someone in possession of cannabis as “medical”.

Our concerns about SB 555 go well beyond what is enumerated above, but it is our hope on behalf of our members and the Kansas public that these points, along with the many others voiced by the other opponents, will result in your not passing this very dangerous and overreaching legislation.