

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

SB 555

Support ___ Oppose X Neutral _____

Testimony Will Be: In Person Oral _____ Webex Oral _____ Written Only X

For Meeting: Thursday, March 28, 2024

Testimony By: Sarah Stephens

On Behalf Of: Kansas Cannabis Chamber of Commerce

Email Address: sarahstephensselmon@gmail.com

Telephone: 316.619.7612

Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for seeking solutions in Kansas. Thank you for holding hearings that could lead to a safe and fairly regulated medical cannabis framework for Kansans. Please keep working in that direction and dismiss SB 555 from consideration in this discussion.

Designed to monopolize the medical cannabis industry and unnecessarily restrict patient access, SB 555 is illegal, unfair and fraught with contradictions. It hands over all of what should be available business opportunities to just four companies. Those four companies are then legally allowed to monopolize medical cannabis by growing, processing and distributing.

SB 555 will immediately result in lawsuits against the state of Kansas and any regulatory authorities attached to it. There are so many causes for concern in SB 555 that it is not workable. It is not the right starting point for this conversation. It does not move us in the right direction.

Instead of listing each point of concern, I'll just ask, 'Why would anyone suggest that an ultra restrictive pilot program is necessary when established regulatory frameworks exist all across the country?' There is no good reason for SB 555 unless you are one of the four companies who wrote the bill and are requesting a state sanctioned monopoly to keep your competition out of the market.

Kansans have waited too long for legal access to cannabis. Please act with urgency and integrity on this matter. Consider instead the multiple, more reasonable bills that have been proposed by advocates, patients and Kansas small business owners year after year.

Kind regards,

Sarah Stephens
Hemp Chair
Kansas Cannabis Chamber of Commerce