

March 28, 2024  
Medical Cannabis SB 555  
Opposition  
Mark Luthi

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in opposition of SB 555. This bill is not what Kansas needs and it does not support patient needs and can cause unnecessary lawsuits for the state. These are my concerns.

- Authority is solely given to KDHE with no involvement from any agencies, advisory board, etc. A good program in my opinion includes the involvement of other agencies.
- “Distribution hub” not a common or consensus-based term used in any US cannabis law or program nor can it be considered a pharmacy due to current DEA scheduling of cannabis.
- All operators must be licensed industrial hemp growers for at least 2 years. This is exclusionary and may be like other models from Ohio, Missouri and New York leading to litigation.
- Pharmacies cannot dispense cannabis under current DEA scheduling.
- Patent product list is not what patients need/use. Patients will not purchase products that are not what they need or use. This may encourage illicit markets and purchasing from other states.
- There is a public health risk for patients forced to purchase products from a website without the opportunity for patient education.
- Paying for purchases using a non-refundable account, not allowing for cash purchases excludes people who don't have bank accounts or use cash only for purchases.
- 8% tax on medical cannabis is excessive.
- Only allowing 4 growers for the entire state. This is not equitable or inclusive and will probably lead to unneeded lawsuits.

Kansans need access to safe, tested, medical cannabis. I am in support of passing a medical cannabis bill and feel It is important to pass a program that supports patient needs and has good oversight and control. SB 555 has a plethora of bad policies and I ask that it not be passed out of committee.

Respectfully,  
Mark Luthi