

March 28, 2024  
Medical Cannabis SB 555  
Opposition  
Amy Reid, RN  
Advisor and Past President, Kansas Cannabis Coalition, Inc.

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in opposition of SB 555. Although I have been a staunch supporter of a medical cannabis program in Kansas, I cannot support this Bill. It's almost embarrassing for Kansas legislators to say that we need a "pilot program" to create an industry that has been created in more than 38 states already. By being "late to the party", we can create BEST policy by researching other states and what's went well and what hasn't.

As a Registered Nurse, and passionate patient advocate, I feel that this is a public health issue and that patient needs should come first. After all, the GOAL of a medical cannabis program is to allow patients access to safe, effective, and affordable medical cannabis products. By having only 4 growers in the state, it's highly likely that they will not provide the strains of cannabis that many patients need for their conditions. In addition, this monopoly of growers/processors/distributors will get away with charging whatever they want because they have no competition. It's as if this bill was created specifically to benefit a select few....certainly not patients.

I have some specific concerns related to the bill language:

- Lack of advisory board to oversee the program
  - If this is truly a medical program, why is there no oversight by the medical community?
- Pharmacies cannot dispense cannabis due to current DEA scheduling of cannabis
- Monopoly will only lead patients to the illicit market or our neighboring states
  - Selection will be limited
  - Lack of competition will lead to increased cost
- No edibles in Bill
  - The fastest growing population of medical cannabis users are patients 55 and older who simply want 5-10mg to help them sleep or relieve arthritis pain. They are not going to vape or use tinctures...they'll take their tax dollars out of state like they're doing now
- Lack of patient education
  - Purchasing from a website and having the product delivered by a delivery driver is quite possibly the WORST way we could create a sensible program. Who is going to educate these patients?

Kansans need access to safe, effective, and affordable medical cannabis. I am in support of passing a medical cannabis bill but 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.