

March 26, 2024

Bill:SB555  
Opponent

Phillis Setchell for Donna Lippoldt  
Culture Shield Network

Senator Thompson, and Committee.

I am Phillis Setchell, speaking for Donna Lippoldt and Culture Shield Network and myself.

We here at Culture Shield Network are thankful for the opportunity to testify against SB555 on Medical Marijuana. We appreciated all the hard work and the amazing research that was done last year when victims from Colorado and Oklahoma plus officials came to warn Kansas. We ask that those testimonies be revisited by this committee and put into the record.

Our neighbors to the south realized the mistake they made, and every county voted down recreational marijuana this last election. Their stories of 46 Chinese trafficked laborers being found on just one of their thousands of farms plus the quadruple homicide which involved the drug cartel, and many other issues should have been enough for leadership to stop the recurrence of legalizing medical marijuana in Kansas. Kansas stands strong against this drug for the protection of all citizens and children.

Culture Shield testified in the fall when the Senate Fed and State held informational hearings in 2022. We were appalled when one proponent's testimony from Minnesota bragged about how much revenue it brought into their state. With a five-billion-dollar surplus in Kansas we hardly need raise taxes or bring in a business that is detrimental.

- Since then, there is much more research that we have discovered. States with medical marijuana laws have experienced a 22.7% increase in opioid overdose deaths. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.1903434116#:~:text=Using%20the%20full%201999%E2%80%932017,%2C%2047.6>
- Marijuana use more than doubles the likelihood of other drug use later in life. 97% of cocaine and heroin users started with weed. <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGxSRFVkJHWbnlshGZZfNZIDcfd?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>
- Some say marijuana is harmless, however, Legalization leads of course to increase access. Increased Access leads to increased use and Increased use leads to decreased educational attainment. <https://monitoringthefuture.org/data/bx-by/drug-prevalence/#drug=%22Marijuana+%28Cannabis%29%22>
- Cannabis exposure has been causally likened to increases in pediatric cancer across the USA. It causes the most common childhood cancer, acute lymphoid leukemia. <https://bmccancer.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12885-021-08598-7>

- % THCAdditionally, there is growing concern over the potential genotoxic effects of prenatal cannabis exposure, which has been associated with elevated rates of congenital defects and Down syndrome. (Same study as above)
- According to an Oct 2020 Study from the University of Mississippi addiction rates from marijuana have gone from 10% to 30% in 10 years. The study shows that the 1960 THC was about .5% and in 2022 there are strains that have 34% THC, a 6700% increase. The authors of this study give the reason for the growing % of addiction if just the THC potency.

Furthermore, the process of taking a poll of Kansans to see how many would support legalizing medical marijuana is suspicious by the way the questions are presented.

CSN, believes if the truth about the dangers were known, and the fact that there are other methods to address seizures, pain and loss of appetite, even more people would understand that marijuana is not needed.

Culture Shield would request that our senators and representatives facilitate the responsible process for the protection of our land, our children and all our citizens.

Anyone who would dare mention the financial benefits to Kansas should listen to the testimony by Laura Stack who's amazing, accomplished, 19-year-old son is now dead because of the easy access to getting a medical card in Colorado. Every life is precious. We need to look no further than the results of our three neighboring states to see the corruption, the increased crime, the beautiful state of Colorado where we used to visit. Please keep Kansas a place where families would like to live.

Warm regards,

Donna Lippoldt  
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