

Dear Chairman Owens and committee members,

As an appointed member serving in my third term on the Industrial Hemp Advisory Board under Kansas Department of Agriculture, I submit the following testimony on behalf of industry stakeholders who are also concerned about the seemingly minor language change made in SB414. As a proposed bill that only amends fentanyl-related criminal charges it is of crucial importance this committee question why and where language pertaining to “marijuana” originated.

If not removed, this questionable change would treat individuals who purchase legal hemp products as felons, forcing burden of proof onto them that it contains no more than 0.3% delta-9 THC. Ultimately, this would give law enforcement an unnecessary level of probable cause for targeting people, which is the opposite of what is in the public's best interest according to comprehensive public health and drug policy evidence.

Our understanding is by making this small amendment, there is a strong likelihood of immediate and widespread negative impacts considering the thousands of retailers currently selling hemp products statewide. Issues range from more inconsistency and confusion amongst law enforcement agencies to economic and legal repercussions, and all at a critical time when communities instead need a refocusing of building trust, support and connectedness.

*We believe if the bill is to advance, the additional text "material containing any quantity of" on page 3 should at the very least be removed:*

(e) In any prosecution under this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption of an intent to distribute if any person possesses the following quantities of controlled substances or analogs thereof:

(1) 450 grams or more of *material containing any quantity of* marijuana;

This is an opportunity to reverse a trend of increasing an area of waste on already limited law enforcement and judicial resources. I ask that you please support Kansas consumers, patients and businesses who are acting in good faith by working to implement public health-driven laws and remove overly restrictive crimes for cannabis and cannabis-based products.

I am happy to share any information or insight that can be helpful in the process.

Thank you,

- Kelly Rippel

Co-founder, Kansans for Hemp

Advisor, Kansas Cannabis Coalition