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SENATE CHAMBER

**DAVID B. HALEY**  
SENATOR  
DISTRICT 4  
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## STATEMENT In SUPPORT Of The PROPOSED Amendment (Regarding Medical Marijuana)

MR. CHAIRMAN & FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE :

Thank you for allowing me to have this written Testimony be made a part of today's Committee meeting Minutes. Whether or not this Motion to Amend and, subsequently, to move the Bill out favorably prevails, or not, this is a crucial topic that one day, I predict, will be Kansas law and I believe that this is the first time that the Kansas Senate (where I am proud to have served far longer than any other member here) has undertaken it. So, we are now all on notice ...

Mr. Chairman and Members, I'll be brief here; you've had my written testimony for a few days now and may even have heard from constituents on this timely, but hardly revolutionary, issue. It's ironic, to me even, that the name "David Haley" may be associated with any illicit substance.

As a former Assistant District Attorney, I still believe that crime deserves swift prosecution and that criminals deserve just punishments. As the Ranking Member of this Judiciary Committee for a decade now, I weigh very carefully any new proposal I might promote.

So, as sure as I'm sitting here today, when I tell you this ... I mean it.

Otherwise law-abiding citizens, who turn to naturally produced, holistic solutions to alleviate their personal physical or mental pain or anguishes should not be criminalized, prosecuted or demonized. Resorting to a remedy, *proven effective over centuries with no known deaths*, should not be a crime in our State as, with a prescription from a licensed doctor or surgeon, such is no longer a crime in eighteen (18) other States and the District of Columbia.

This amendment, simply stated, will permit the recommendation of cannabis (marijuana) by a licensed Kansas medical doctor or surgeon to relieve the aches and pains of various illnesses.

So, here's the obvious. This is 2013. We are in the Kansas Senate. We have the statistics and the facts in front of us. Several informal polls suggest that an overwhelming majority of Kansans, irrespective of political ideology, respond that physician recommended marijuana should be available in Kansas. It is supported by literally thousands with backgrounds in law enforcement, including former Kansas Attorney General Bob Stephan. This same provision is recommended by civil rights organizations, like the NAACP and NCSL; promoted by senior advocacy groups, such as the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature....I could go on and on but close with this thought.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS  
JUDICIARY REAPPORTIONMENT  
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

Senate Judiciary Committee  
STATE Date: 2-19  
CORR Attachment: 8

AGAIN, I predict that one day, physician-prescribed patient choice in non-lethal, natural remedies will be available in all of the United States. The only question we have to answer on this amendment today is :

“ Will Kansas be the nineteenth State to allow it? Or the fiftieth ? Or somewhere in between?”

Mr. Chair. Thank you again for the Committee's attention. I'm happy to stand for any questions.

- *David Hales* 2/12/13