

Nick Reinecker

Opponent Written-only Testimony

HB2505

Tuesday Feb. 18, 2020

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Chair: Rep. Jennings

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I submit this testimony to you today as a continuation of my 7-year quest as a Kansas citizen to eliminate cannabis from the controlled substances act. This journey has allowed me to learn some basic knowledge of criminal justice, mental health, legislative procedure and more, including relationships with many legislators that I have come to value on multiple levels. My intention is not to “sound like a broken record” or condemn the current state of affairs. My desire is to have good “hard on crime”, “rule of law” (with discretion) peacekeeping, applied consistently and equitably, with compassion and liberty-focused, constitutionally-based standards. This bill represents the addition of tools in the toolbox for courts when dealing with adjudicated juveniles. In general, I do have heartburn concerning how recidivism is calculated, the use of the DSM in assessments, and the fact that a urinalysis that violates conditions, when dealing with statutory possession violations is not considered a new crime. That said, I don’t see how this is going to provide for more juvenile justice in its current form. Concerns of those wanting to ‘game the system’, voluntary self-control vs. involuntary self-control (and attitude), discretionally diagnosed disorders, programming completion within time limits, and other issues are why I choose not to support this bill, at this time.

Possible alternatives:

1. Eliminate the testing for THC while keeping all others in place.
2. Eliminating cannabis from the controlled substances act.
3. Decriminalization to avoid adjudication

Thank You

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