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SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

BEFORE THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE / March 14, 2019

RE: SB 113. Providing for the Legal Use of Medical Cannabis.

SUPPORT

Chair Suellentrop and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for having a hearing on this proposed measure which simply speaks to the obvious and growing will of Kansans and our Nation. Since 2011, as the original and ever solo sponsor of multiple Senate bills that will enable Kansans to access marijuana for prescribed medicinal purposes, now, with well over half of the United States' population able to do so, I genuinely commend this Committee for finally undertaking an actual Senate hearing on what I predicted, years ago, will someday be Kansas law.

I will be brief as there are no doubt much more informed and passionate Proponents here than I.

Succinctly, supporters of this concept are otherwise law-abiding citizens who turn to natural holistic solutions to alleviate their personal physical or mental pain. We should no longer criminalize, nor even stigmatize, who resort to a remedy proven effective over centuries and with no known deaths.

From my observation, opposition tends to fall into two major categories (both subtly relying on debunked myths about marijuana's effects) : A) Law enforcement intent on perpetrating an unnecessary criminal code (to justify a need to inflate arrest records where actual no crime or public safety hazard exists) AND B) Medical personnel intent on protecting the pharmaceutical industry (preferring the public continue to often abuse even kill itself with expensive chemical concoctions that enhance its fiscal bottom line).

Please work this bill, Mr. Chair. If the will of many Kansans, the majority according to some polls, is followed, SB 113, or some reasonable facsimile will be law in our State. Meanwhile, many people are needlessly criminalized here while other parts of the country (including EVERY State surrounding Kansas, except one) enjoy this more holistic, healthier option.

Again, I urge your support and will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Haley