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Proponent for SB560: The Medical Marijuana Regulation Act

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

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Chairman Olson and Committee Members,

Thank you all for the opportunity to provide my support for SB560. As most of you know, there have been many medical cannabis bills introduced in the Kansas legislature over the past many years. I am very thankful for those of you who have supported our cause throughout the year. I have provided testimony for the past 3 years and I am so pleased to say that this testimony will take on a different tone than those in the past.

Overall, I believe this is an exceptional bill! With so many groups advocating for different aspects within the bill, I believe that this language truly reflects the GOAL of this piece of legislation: TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS FOR KANSAS RESIDENTS. I thank you for that and hope that we can get this bill passed in the 2022 legislative session.

I do, however, want to bring up a few key pieces of the bill language that I think could make this good bill into a great bill.

- One key item was left out of the list of “products”. We need to include “topicals” as an option for items our patients can purchase. This has always been in past legislation and is very necessary for patients treating joint pain and arthritis.
- Licensing fees are incredibly high, specifically for cultivation. My concern as a patient advocate is that these fees will be undoubtedly passed down to the patient in higher costs for their medicine.
- KTRACS is absolutely necessary in the physician’s office but it should NOT have any place in the dispensary environment. In speaking with Tatiana Lin, Senior Analyst and Strategy Team Leader for the Kansas Health Institute, I learned more specifics on KHI’s recommendations regarding KTRACS. Utilizing K-TRACS was a recommendation provided by KHI back in 2015, however, it based STRICTLY on the recommending physician, NOT on the dispensary:
 - In 2015, we included the following recommendation in the Medical Marijuana HIA report: *Department of Health and Environment could consider: Identifying evidence-based practices that keep health care providers accountable to the types of prescriptions/recommendations they make for medical marijuana such as Kansas Tracking and Reporting of Controlled Substances (K-TRACS) 7*

- I am a Registered Nurse and health care professionals go through extensive annual HIPPA training to prevent violation of a patient's privacy. Dispensary personnel should NOT have access to a patient's prescription drug history. This should be between the physician and the patient. Having access to this data outside of the physician's office screams HIPPA Violation!
- In addition, KTRACS in the dispensary is very costly and those costs will be incurred by the government via the quarterly reporting of costs from the Kansas Pharmacy Association. We have so many better ways that revenue could be spent!
- Finally, the bill already includes language regarding a seed to sale tracking system. This does all the things KTRACS would do and more. Not to mention it is very state of the art and tracks the entire process from the planting of the seed to the sale to the patient. KTRACS is simply a duplication of regulations.
- K-TRACS prescription monitoring system is very archaic software and will not integrate with any seed to sale system, thus causing dispensaries to maintain two separate systems which is costly and inefficient.
- Once again.....higher costs to run business equals higher cost for patients.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to express my recommendations regarding this bill. I ask that as you listen to testimonies, please remember the main goal of this legislation.....ACCESS for PATIENTS. High costs that are incurred through licensing fees and paid pharmacists to oversee KTRACS will trickle down to the end user and we will have many veterans and indigent people who need this amazing plant, but they will not be able to afford it.

Respectfully,

Amy Reid, RN
President, Kansas Cannabis Coalition, Inc.