

Date: February 24, 2021
HB2184 Kansas Medical Marijuana
Presenter: Clay Bullard

Prepared statement:

Good afternoon committee members and thank you for this opportunity to present to you today. My name is Clay Bullard and I am here on behalf of various different healthcare industry and public safety groups.

As you consider the multitude of issues surrounding the legalization of medical marijuana for the State of Kansas, I would like to highlight one area that I think this committee should consider on behalf of all the citizens of Kansas, as it can and will affect all citizens at some level. I am for the utilization of marijuana for medicinal purposes, when it can truly be proven safe and effective - as a medical product.

The medical marijuana industry is one that is still in infancy with very little standardized of processes, testing or punitive damages from one state to the next. When compared to any other medical product - pharmaceutical, device or lab test, the regulations by most states are waning, to say the least. A lack of standards is not in the best interests of anyone who uses, prescribes or tests cannabis in the state of Kansas.

Oklahoma was the first state to legalize cannabis for medicinal purposes AND required that the Department of Health establish a private - public partnership with a quality assurance laboratory to help establish standards of laboratory testing, processing of edible products and quality checks on all dispensaries. This is what I would ask this committee to consider establishing within the written legislation when you vote to pass any legislation to legalize cannabis, as a medical product.

Within the first 90 days of the QA laboratory being establish in Oklahoma, one of the 22 approved testing laboratories voluntarily surrendered their license. This was because they were not testing the products, but simply "estimating" or "dry labing" their results based on previous testing and reporting out those results out as if they were truly tested. They did this to satisfy the request of their customers to have all product "pass" testing and be available for sale to the open market. The presence of a QA lab made them realize their action would soon be found out and they shut everything down to avoid the scrutiny and fines associated with an investigation.

Kansas has the opportunity to be out in front of any such issues by establishing their QA laboratory prior to issuing licenses and avoid the problems Oklahoma encountered, and is still encountering, due to their lack of early implementation. I urge Kansas to consider early implementation of controls, mirroring more of a "medical process" for quality.

In conclusion, I want to thank the committee again for allowing me to speak. I think Kansas has the opportunity to a new standard of public safety and medical standardization for cannabis.