

Federal and State Affairs Committee

Topic: HB: 2184

Hearing Date: February, 24, 2021

From: Dawn Puff

To the Committee Members and the Chair,

Thank you to the committee chair, and the committee, for your due diligence in holding this hearing on medical cannabis.

My name is Dawn Puff. I advocated previously for thousands of patients in Kansas whose diagnosis, and symptoms would have allowed them the treatment option of medical cannabis in other states, but not here at home where they live, work, have families, support systems, and are upstanding citizens of their communities.

This year I am here as a patient, by and through my testimony as it is not possible to appear myself in person. I am considered medically disabled by our state, and the federal government. I have just received a decision by Social Security of the same.

I have faced serious cognitive decline, due in part to my pain levels, and medical action side effects, and I apologize if my testimony is hard to comprehend, or incomplete.

I have suffered from debilitating migraines for three years. August 4 two years ago, I once again found myself suffering through a severe migraine. I have since been told they are cervicogenic migraines, which means the migraine is a secondary condition caused by damage to the cervical part of my spine, specifically at the facet joints. I have had 25 migraine free days since.

I am no longer a "productive citizen". I have been ordered by my medical team to sit, stand, or walk no more than 10 minutes at a time. I have been ordered by my medical team to remain lying down for two to three hours. When I do not follow this advice, I have been in so much pain that I am confined to bed for days. Trust me when I say that breaking this advice is a detriment to myself, and is only done in cases that I believe will at one point in the near future be of great medical benefit to me.

My Medicaid insurance DOES NOT COVER most pain meds. I am currently on three, that are almost completely ineffective. They do offer slight relief when my pain is at its worst.

I am on a blood pressure medication for my migraines. It helps with clusters, and ocular migraines, but almost completely ineffective for the carcinogenic ones. My pain ranges from a 7-10 every single day. I have been getting nerve block shots in my head, shoulders, neck, upper back, mid back, lower back, and my piriformis. I also receive shots in my cervical facet joints. Each area requires a varied number of shots, (blocks), and they are given each area in one day, about a week or two apart. They are given every three months. To date, since March of last year I have had approximately 600 shots (blocks)

Until 1941 Cannabis was listed in the US Pharmacopeia. It was removed against advice, under bogus information and flat out lies.

Migraines were one of the conditions listed for effective treatment, as was chronic pain.

I am asking as a citizen of this state that you allow me a person not successfully treated by conventional treatment, the right to use medical cannabis if my Dr. believes it to be a possible effective treatment for my diagnosis.

I have been stripped of the ability to live a normal life, to live without extreme pain, and the most times the debilitating side effects of ineffective medications, and the symptoms themselves.

Please understand that not every one that is currently under the care of a physician is being effectively treated.

All patients are asking for is the right to try another treatment if their Dr. believes it may effectively treat them, and recommends it.

I shouldn't have to consider leaving my family, my support system, my medical team, or my home to seek a possible effective treatment in a neighboring state.

My son is diagnosed with P.T.S.D., generalized anxiety disorder NOS, social anxiety, panic disorder, chronic depression, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, A.D.H.D., Oppositional Defiance Disorder, Bi-Polar disorder, as well as several others. These conditions seriously affect and limit his ability to function on what is considered a normal basis. Michael has been granted the use of an SED waiver, (Severely Emotionally Disturbed) and as such receives medication, and treatment through Family Service and Guidance Center in Topeka, a private therapist, the use of respite services, and has had to make use of short stay programs (a ten day or less stay in a psychiatric facility) as well as PRTF's.(Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities)

His medication per month currently include:

Omeprazole 40 mg a day- to counter the effects other medications have on his digestive system,

Oxcarbazepine - 1450 mg a day total

Escitalopram -20 mg a day

Paliperidone er 9mg a day

Clonidine .5 mg a day total

Hydroxyzpam 50 mg a day

These medications carry risk of dependence, organ failure, death, and each carry a host of side effects. Many of them are serious. I have a medical professional background with additional personal elective emphasis on mental health. When it is your own child suffering through these, or any conditions, it is important to make yourself aware of not only every effective possible treatment including medication, and varied therapies, and the possible side effects, or risks associated with each. It is very important to be not only active but proactive in nature to prevent as many negative issues as possible.

In taking that approach, I have through my own research found many, major medical clinical research trials involving the effective use of medical cannabis for the majority of his conditions. It is particularly effective in treating P.T.S.D., anxieties, Chronic depression, O.C.D., O.D.D, A.D.H.D., and Bi-polar disorder. As a part of that proactive approach, I then researched the safety, side effects, and results of those who are currently treating disorders such as his, and the affect it could possibly have on his life. I found that medical cannabis could treat almost all of them simultaneously. That he would be able to be titrated off traditional medications, be treated more efficiently, with comparatively no side effects, no harmful side effects, no toxic level, and for a lower price.

Currently the medications listed, all of which could be replaced by cannabis have a monthly cost to the state of \$2245.99 a month.

The short stays have an average cost to taxpayers of \$13,762.00 per admittance. They are a result of the medication being ineffective. He has required 6 over last year and the one previous. Michael has required four P.R.T.F. stays, between last year and the one previous. These stays are a result once again of ineffective medication, and treatment. They are \$60,000.00 each stay. The previous mentioned S.E.D. waiver services are billed at an amount of \$5634.12 a month. His med services are billed at \$199. a month. The total for medication and services for Michael for 2015 and 2016 totaled \$511,694.64. Let me state that again, \$511,694.64. That does not include the three-emergency room visits that were required to stabilize his mental health.

Cannabis would have been paid for out of pocket, much more effective, and much safer. His current therapist has stated it would be beneficial to his conditions. I implore you to consider not only the health and wellbeing of my child, his future, my family, (because the entire family has suffered horribly through this process), but the bottom line. We are wasting money hand over foot.

Medical cannabis can help him, and all those like him so much. I am asking you to immediately act to give Kanss patients access. .

Improve lives, save lives, save Kansas

I ask for your due diligence not only in discussing, and passing a medical cannabis bill, but your due diligence in making sure that you pass legislation that protects the medicine, the patients, medical providers, those that have had to sign a scheduled drug agreement plan, and our state. Look at mistakes other states have made, and do not repeat them here.

Patients cannot afford inadequacies.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions for me I would be more than happy to answer them by phone.

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