

Susan Gile, Executive Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

March 28, 2024
Neutral Testimony on SB555
Susan Gile, Executive Director
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts

Chair Thompson and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Susan Gile, and I am the Executive Director for the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this neutral testimony on **SB555**, which would establish the medical cannabis pilot program. As written, the bill would allow the secretary of health and environment to contract with qualified operators for the purposes of cultivation, processing, distribution, and sale of medical cannabis products. Though the Board remains neutral on the passage of SB555, there are several factors that would be prudent to consider when discussing this bill:

First, we feel that the term “primary care physician” (as used in New Sec. 19) should be explicitly defined. For some patients, the term “primary care physician” means a Physician Assistant (PA) or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (APRN). This would prevent any uncertainty from patients and providers regarding who may recommend medical cannabis. New Section 2 (p) defines “Physician”. This definition would only include Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathy. The bill then discusses that medical cannabis may be recommended by a “primary care physician”. There is no definition for this. “Primary care physician” (as used in New Sec. 19) should be explicitly defined. This would prevent any uncertainty from patients and providers regarding who may recommend medical cannabis.

Additionally, a mechanism needs to be in place for a provider to be able revoke a medical cannabis certificate if a patient has provided false information to their physician, or if the condition for which the certificate was issued has resolved.

SB555 makes no reference to physicians that are licensed in Kansas but who are physically located outside of the state. If passed unamended, this bill would allow for the recommending of medical cannabis via telemedicine, which carries potential risks. For example, in 2020 the State of Missouri investigated a telemedicine company that it says approved 600 fake medical marijuana certifications by forging a physician’s signature. It is important to consider how this committee can best minimize potential fraud or abuse within the program.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide these written comments. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 785-296-4385.



Susan Gile
Executive Director