

ORAL PRESENTATION in SUPPORT of HB2330

David E. Mulford

January 22, 2012

Good afternoon,

My name is David Mulford, I am a 53 year old resident of Hutchinson, Ks appearing before you today in support of HB2330. Some of you may remember my testimony from St. Patrick's Day 2010 concerning HB2610 when I described to you in more detail my conditions and struggles to survive, my fight with muscle spasms and the more than two decade search for a cause and adequate measures to arrest and control them. I told you openly what I'd suffered and continue to suffer not only with the spasms, but the other conditions that make life more than just a challenge. Therefore, in addition to my oral presentation I will supply the Committee with written testimony as well to expedite this proceeding today and allow others to speak and focus instead on other issues. Since my last testimony I've served as an advocate, speaking with thousands of Kansas and I've attended several political functions during which some of our elected officials were asked their position on Medical Marijuana and I listened to their responses; I'd like to reply to their concerns.

The first concern was involving the method of administration, that smoking anything wasn't an acceptable means of medicating and that other medications, by pill form were available. Unfortunately in my condition, as in others, speed of delivery is critical. How quickly it's absorbed into the bloodstream makes all the difference in the world. Waiting up to an hour isn't an option when a spasm is trying to shut down my Aorta. Likewise, patients suffering conditions where swallowing is a problem, many times the Cancer patients who endure chronic wasting or are so sick from chemo or radiation therapies that can't keep anything, including water down. You can't ask them to swallow a pill I've been told time after time after time by one patient after another, it just doesn't work.

One option is a Vaporizer, a device which heats, not burns the Cannabis, and allows it to be inhaled without producing the by-products of combustion that smoking does. This permits a patient to regulate the medicinal effects by self-titration and more effectively control the dosage and limit the psychoactive effects when such effects might be detrimental. I'm not a big fan of smoking myself, but until something like a Nebulizer comes along that can deliver an adjustable, pre-measured dose reliably we don't have much of a choice in rapidity. Another option are Oils, Extracts, Salves and Tinctures, all of whom are currently prohibited by law but have been proven to be effective when rapidity is not of major concern and the "Ensemble Effect" isn't an issue such as it is with Marinol, the only legal alternative which simply doesn't work for too many people. But even so, a recent report in the JAMA stated that there appeared to be no correlation between smoking even moderate amounts of Marijuana and Cancer.

Another concern was that it simply wasn't a good idea to allow yet another addictive substance for our kids easy access, or that by passing this measure we'd have masses of intoxicated drivers careening about on our highways and workplaces. Neither argument however stands the test of scrutiny however, in fact as hard as it is to believe, an article last week in the Hartford Courant revealed a recent study by several universities in states with MM legislation was in effect showed an average 9% drop in DUI deaths in those

states, while Kansas is currently experiencing a substantial rise in those deaths. Another study, the CMCR showed that in states passing Medical Marijuana laws, abuse by kids actually dropped in some and stayed the same in the others. Yet in our legislature this year we're considering revising smoking laws to allow clubs and other establishments to compete with the state-owned Casinos', and there is a measure to allow grocery and convenience stores to sell spirits, both of which have been proven to increase accessibility to minors to substances proven to be far more addicting and dangerous than Marijuana. I also heard the term "Individual Liberties" projected in both measures as well, then question, "where are mine?", don't I have a right to choose; a striking similar individual liberty?

In conclusion I ask and pray that you work this measure beyond an informational hearing in search of the truth. Only by doing so will everyone have the opportunity to hear both sides of the issue and make a sound judgment regarding this measures implementation or denial. Thank you.

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