

From: [Susan Hughes](#)
To: [Debbie Bartuccio](#)
Subject: Testimony for HB 2330 1-24-12
Date: Friday, January 20, 2012 4:02:33 PM

Dear Honorable House Health and Human Services Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to listen and learn about H.B. 2330 concerning Medical Marijuana. I will not be attending the hearing on Tuesday, January 24 because I am now experiencing the advanced stages of Multiple Sclerosis and rarely leave the house.

I was the one whom submitted a petition with signatures of Kansans supporting medical marijuana for seriously ill patients at the informational hearing on St. Patty's Day 2010. I have continued to follow medical marijuana news and am pleased to hear that 16 states currently have medical marijuana legislation on the books, with many more considering it in the near future.

The history of how marijuana came to be the feared drug is interesting. Marijuana became against the law in 1937, in large part because of the big egos and big money of some of the big people of the time. People like Hurst, who was invested heavily in paper, and Dupont who was developing alternative products for Hemp lead a campaign against marijuana hemp. Hemp was a much cheaper and readily available product to produce, and was a threat to their pockets. I read how the DEA was introduced to combat the mexicans and negros that were crazed on marijuana. And how almost underhandedly how the bill was passed through a committee not involving any of the issues presented at the time. It was passed without the knowledge of the public.

I could go on, but if you enjoy history, (like I do,) I suggest you goggle it and read up on it.

I ask that you consider how much things have changed since the 1930s. Most of us in our life times could not imagine the advances we've seen in current medicine. I have continued to follow the findings in marijuana as medicine, and am encouraged in the findings, especially in the research about the 40 different cannabinoids in the plant and how they are showing that they not only provide a benefit to MS patients, but could slow the progression of the disease. (National MS Society, Recommendation of Cannabis, Feb. 2009) There is just too much to learn about this to keep the door closed on this subject.

Studies are showing that a number of states that have adopted compassionate care legislation are showing a reduction in arrests and teen usage. I know how numbers can be crunched to show what ever the desired results, but I have read enough through the years to believe it. It only makes sense that if we control the product, we will have better results in controlling who can get their hands on it.

I remember reading a quote by Mrs. Landwehr in the Wichita Eagle a few years ago where she mentions individual freedoms. I ask that she remember how she felt when she was quoted saying that. I am asking for my individual freedoms also. Along with many many seriously ill Kansans, I ask you to support this bill. It is the compassionate thing to do.

Respectfully yours,

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