

To my fellow Kansans',

Thank you for taking your time to read my testimony. It is with pride that I can say I was born and raised in south-central Kansas and reside in Pratt with my family of four. My husband and I have two businesses with one of those directly affected with the HB2706 bill. Our business is a liquor store that was started 25 plus years ago by former owners, and was recently bought by my husband and I in 2019. We have 2 full time employees and 6 part time employees. The support of HB2706 is vital to this store, the owners, employees, customers, and of course our surrounding communities.

Here in my community of Pratt, KS, we are conservative county as is most of Kansas. From a fellow christian, business owner, and mother, I would tell you this was a hard decision to make about supporting the evolvement of Hemp use in Kansas. Ten years ago I would have not supported a bill like this, but after seeing and hearing the stories of positivity come from the use of these products, well it is hard to see Kansas just stay stagnant in this evolving industry.

Prior to owning the liquor store, I worked in the medical field for 12+ years. I was an MRI/X-ray Technologist. Seeing first hand how disease and illness can effect a person is exhausting, but to know that there were patients who were so desperate to feel better, they went against the law and would use various forms of marijuana products in order to lessen their symptoms. Now fast forwarding to the retail industry side of it. I get to visit with customers that say the same thing. They want to sleep better and feel better, and for me it gives me gratification to know that this customer can come into my local store where I have trusted products to sell to them from Kansas.

We as a state are missing out already on large amounts of revenue. Believe it or not, Kansans have been seeking these types of products by other ways not related in the state. Tax money that we could use towards our own budget is being lost because Kansas forbids to evolve in a direction that is not conservative.

Thank you very much for your time and effort. Please keep an open mind. The choice to approve the bill is a positive one. Kansas needs this for the sake of all those who suffer with health/mental problems. Yes some will abuse the product which is no different than the alcohol that I sell in my store. This is where morals and values come in to play by teaching our population right from wrong. Starting with the young generation. We can get there. Please support HB2706 and pass this bill out of committee favorably.

Sincerely,

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