

Proponent Testimony-Written Only Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, SB 560

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Attention: Michael.welton@senate.ks.gov

Dear Chairman Olsen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of a medical cannabis program. I am Cheryl Kumberg, a registered nurse with 30 years of hospital experience (40+ years in nursing) and 26 years of experience in the alternative health care field. I have 8 years of focused cannabis education, am active in two national cannabis nursing organizations, and the Kansas State Nurses Association. I am the Vice President of the Kansas Cannabis Coalition, co-founder of Kansas Nurses for Medical Cannabis and co-owner of Green Healing Solutions LLC.

Kansas has a unique opportunity to formulate a medical cannabis program that will not only benefit patients but the state as well. We have the opportunity to take a hard look at failed/struggling programs in other states where restrictions hampered revenue and patient access and will be able to avoid repeating the same mistakes. Safe use of cannabis depends on education for healthcare workers and patients, as well as access to tested safe products. We need product accountability and affordability for patients. A very large portion of our state is rural and consideration for meeting the needs of those patient is imperative. Reasonable license fees without caps along with reasonable taxes will allow for retail products that will be affordable for all patients. Data supports that safe, tested product at a competitive price will also discourage illicit markets.

I do have concerns with the over-involvement of pharmacists in this bill. I absolutely agree they have a place verifying possible interactions with medications and reenforcing dosages and side effect cautions. I also agree they need to be available by phone or video conference. I do NOT agree with the New Section 38. #3-4. Physicians, not pharmacists should be responsible for providing initial education on risks, benefits, and side effects as well as assessing possible patient abuse of cannabis. I do not know how a pharmacist could make a diagnosis of cannabis abuse based solely on observations made at a dispensary. I also do not understand why a pharmacist would be expected to come up with items patients may not utilize like a "logbook." For years Cannabis Nurses across the US have provided cannabis patient education. They work within practice guidelines and are invaluable resource for patients. We do NOT need to re-invent the wheel here and we should value a pharmacist for their expertise and knowledge of chemistry and drug interactions. It would make better sense to take advantage of dispensary staff education and patient education already in place that can be provided by experts in those fields. Another concern is a recommendation being reissued every 90 days especially if there is an associated fee from the physician's office. We are not talking about a pharmaceutical product with potential for detrimental side effects that needs close monitoring especially for established patients. Cannabis has a well-documented safety record and 6 months would be a more reasonable renewal timeframe for established patients.

Cannabis use throughout Kansas is common and it's in thousands of homes right now. Data indicates 61% of patients who use cannabis began after age 60. It's time to regulate it, reclaim the revenue walking across our borders into neighboring states and develop a new, prosperous industry. The cannabis program should focus on those that will use it. It needs to support patients not treat them like future criminals or addicts. They deserve safe, tested, affordable products. They also deserve access to cannabis trained physicians as well as patient education and support provided by educated cannabis nurses. I urge you to pass SB 560.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Kumberg RN/CMT

<https://www.leafly.com/news/industry/what-makes-a-state-medical-cannabis-program-succeed>

<https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/prohibition/unintended-consequences/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/prohibition-americas-failed-noble-experiment/>

[Study Finds Older Adults Using Cannabis to Treat Common Health Conditions \(ucsd.edu\)](#)