

3/14/2022

Senate Bill 560

Proponent

WRITTEN-ONLY

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Greetings,

I'm writing to voice my support for legalization of Medical cannabis.

My wife and I have owned Pack Rat Smokes for six and a half years. We employ 10 to 12 people, five or six consider Pack Rat their primary source of income.

Around 18 months ago, we observed other shops near us start selling delta 8/10 products and followed suit. We thought we'd sell primarily to 21 to 30 year olds and nothing was farther from the truth. We found that a majority of our sales were to 40+ individuals who were using the delta products for assistance with sleep, anxiety, and a surprising number of people treating PTSD. Many had prescriptions for the various pharmaceuticals to treat these conditions, but found the hemp products more to their liking.

We watched closely for news of car wrecks or crime that could be attributed to the consumption of these products and saw none. We saw mostly DUIs or hard drugs. I contend that there was an accidental natural experiment in this state that demonstrates how beneficial medical cannabis can be. Reflect on the past two years and you will see its effects on society.

On or about December 16th last year the state AG clarified his interpretation of the governing Kansas statute and as a result we pulled those products to remain compliant. Since then, our business receded approximately 20%. That's just part of the story though. Cigarettes and tobacco are highly competitive. We have thin margins to stay affordable for the working poor. It varies, but under 10% is a safe estimate. The hemp products were usually sold for twice the price of wholesale. We gave several employees raises because we had the revenue to do so. Having lost the hemp products we've been put in that awkward place where the sales aren't what it once was.

We believe medical cannabis could allow us to make a respectable living and provide the same for our employees and their families. We would like to be able to afford our employees benefits, but the tobacco products won't do this.

On a personal note,

I had a nasal surgery five or six years ago. The Doctor fixed the damage from several broken noses. The recovery was dreadful and the pharmaceuticals prescribed for the pain barely dulled it. A slightly shady banker friend of mine provided me with some cannabis oil that I took and I was close to pain free. It works, and denying people that relief when they are in need, really should be the criminal act.

Thank you for your time,

Cody