

Testimony on SB 489
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
March 11, 2016

Dear Chairman O'Donnell and Members of the Committee.

I am writing in opposition to SB 489 on behalf of Kansas Family Partnership, a statewide drug prevention organization. This bill and all other attempts to legalize medical marijuana are first and foremost flawed in that they allow legislative bodies to determine what should be considered a medicine without benefit of appropriate research and vetting through the Federal Drug Administration process required by all other "medicines". By supporting this bill, you will be:

1. Assuming that claims by advocates are researched-based and will do no harm; something physicians take an oath to do. You will note, this is not supported by physician groups in Kansas or nationally.
2. Assuming that fees will cover the costs of this policy without any clear knowledge or assessment of what it will take in terms of expertise, staff time and monitoring of this policy by state employees who are already strapped to do the jobs. Please realize that there is no fiscal note to this bill and it assumes fees will cover many unassessed costs.
3. Assuming that the timeframes to enact this policy are reasonable and that Kansas is willing to experiment with so many unknowns with allowing medical marijuana.
4. Allowing a bill that allows for 3% THC with no knowledge of what this means in terms of health impact.
5. Allowing for expansion of qualifying medical conditions without basis for knowing or understanding the health impact of this expansion.

This bill is about expansion of medical marijuana; it is not a "hemp" bill. It is not even based on emerging research that some components of marijuana, i.e. CBD, may be helpful in some conditions. Currently there are 171 clinical trials that have either been completed, active or are recruiting for participants in an effort to determine if marijuana and its components have the potential to provide safe, standardized medicine.

A vote for this bill ignores the importance of research and consumer protection. While we all have the desire for children and others to have relief from their medical conditions, I hope that we would also agree that we all deserve medicine that has defined dosages and expected outcomes based on research. This bill will not do this.

I urge you to vote no on SB 489.



Michelle Voth
Executive Director
Kansas Family Partnership