

March 16, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Thompson, and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. The Committee has a major decision to make on SB 135. On the one hand, you have Kansans saying that medical marijuana needs to be legalized so veterans and children have a drug that will assist in reducing their pain and ailments. That is a hard issue to vote against. Then you have other Kansans that point to surrounding states that have passed medical marijuana that has led to recreational marijuana and a host of new issues for those states. Let us not jump into the problems that have developed in Colorado.

So, what is best for Kansas? I suggest that that medical marijuana is nothing more than the Big Marijuana money getting a foothold in Kansas so they can expand into other uses for their product. It happened in Missouri, where four years ago, they legalized medical marijuana and then last year they legalized recreational marijuana. Big Marijuana only wants to get their nose under the tent so eventually they can open up their market for full legalized marijuana in Kansas.

With the growing drug problem in Kansas, as well as over the entire country, the last thing Kansas needs is more legalized, potentially dangerous, drugs on the streets. I have seen no research that shows medical marijuana does any more than other legalized prescription drugs. The stories of it being a miracle drug to solve a host of ailments is nothing more than anecdotal. If it was the only drug that could do all they say it can do, then I would not be as against legalizing it. The problem comes with what comes after legalizing its medical value.

I strongly urge you to vote against SB 135 and keep marijuana as an illegal drug. I would suggest making drug related sentences lighter, if they are non-violent. There is a lot of money in marijuana but only for the producers and those that market it. The State would pay a heavy price in dollars and the destroyed lives of many Kansans. I know this is a tough vote because the average Kansan thinks it is just about the freedom to do what they want to do. But, it is your responsibility to understand the issue beyond that and protect them from this drug.

Thank you,

David W. French
Former State Representative