

Dear members of the Kansas Legislature and the members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

I am writing in opposition to SB 555.

While this bill makes some positive strides by requiring 80% state-owned ownership of Medical Cannabis operations it is very vague as to the rule that will be used in the selection of the distributors and limits the ownership of these businesses to just four corporations, virtually eliminating the ability for small Kansas-based businesses to benefit from the marijuana economy.

Any marijuana legislation should include a way for small Kansas businesses as well as minority and women-owned businesses to participate economically. This bill is silent to participation for all of these groups.

In addition, there is no consideration for releasing or reducing sentences for individuals who are currently serving time for marijuana distribution or for the expungement of records of individuals who may have served time for marijuana sales and distribution. These individuals will continue to languish while other guys get rich for the same transactions, they find themselves jailed or punished for.

I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE SB 555 AND WILL OPPOSE ANY OTHER BILLS THAT COME FORWARD THAT DO NOT CLEARLY DEFINE OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MARIJUANA ECONOMY BY SMALL KANSAS-OWNED AND MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES.

Bonita Gooch