

**From:** [Jennifer Bennett](#)  
**To:** [Debbie Bartuccio](#)  
**Subject:** Medical Marijuana testimony  
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Hi Debbie

Sadly I will not be able to be there on the 23rd but have written up something that you can use if you chose to. If you have any questions please let me know. The best way to reach me is usually email. I didn't know if I should do an attachment or not so I just did a copy and paste here.

Thanks so much  
Jennifer Bennett

33 years old, mother of two wonderful teen daughters ages 16 and 12, best friend of 17 years to my husband, and wife of 15 years. Born deaf in one ear and with a rare eye disease called Reis Buckler's Corneal Dystrophy. The eye disease causes blisters on the cornea that burst open and cause extreme pain. Shortly after the second daughter was born at the age of 21 she was forced to have a hysterectomy. Although it was hard she knew she was blessed to be able to have two children where many women can never have one.

Despite being a 16 year old mom, she finished and graduated high school, while holding down a full time job and volunteer with different places when she could. Even with disabilities of her own she started a nonprofit therapeutic riding program for children and adults with disabilities. She knew eventually she would go blind from the eye disease since each time erosion happened it left behind scar tissue.

In 2005 she went back to school to get a degree and she did become legally blind during her college career but kept going. This lady was very motivated, caring, loving, and compassionate. She was very involved with her children and enjoyed going hunting, fishing, and horseback riding with the family. Today, this lady is lost and needs help to find her way back.

Hi, my name is Jennifer and that lady is me. Four years ago I started having almost daily migraines, horrible head, neck, shoulder, and arm pain. I have been on a huge cocktail of medications including nerve pain, muscle relaxers, sleeping meds, and of course pain medications. I lay in my bed 24 hours a day 7 days a week crying and praying for some relief. I am lucky if I leave the house twice a month.

When you are in pain day in and day out there are days where you feel like you are going to lose your mind. On really bad days there have been times where I wished I wouldn't wake up and when I do I count the hours to when I can go back to sleep. I have had bouts of depression, but what person wouldn't. The constant pain consumes you. It breaks my heart because I am missing so much with my family. It is tearing my kids up inside because they have a mom there but she is always in bed crying because she is always hurting.

Considering everything that is going on with me my husband has been great! I couldn't have ever asked for a better man. And I could never have dreamed for better children but my problems are causing stress in my family and they deserve so much better. My kids need their mom back and my husband needs his best friend and wife back. And I want to be back for them and me.

I know there are hundreds of thousands of people out there right now that are going through the same things I am and some are worse off than I am. I ask you to please consider this when you are voting on the HB 2330 bill.

I don't know if the use of medical marijuana will help me or not but from all the research I have done and people that I have talked to it gives me hope that I can get back some quality

of life. I need to get back to the woman I told you about at the start of my story. I want to be able to get back even the small things like helping with laundry, or school work, or comforting my daughter when she has problems with a boy. My husband and kids need this and I need this.

If I have to continue on the road I am on I know the medications are slowly going to eat my liver, kidneys, intestines, etc. The side effects of many of these medications are unbelievable and are causing more harm than good in my eyes.

I know that there are many things to consider when it comes to Kansas passing this bill but I see many more pros than cons and it can potentially help thousands of people in Kansas. I ask you to please listen to people's stories, look at the research, and not make a snap decision about passing this bill.

Thank you for your time

Jennifer Bennett