

To: Federal and State Affairs Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and ask for your support of Senate Bill 155. I was so in hopes of being present at your hearing but my first priority on Monday is taking my Mother to her Parkinson's disease medical appointment.

My grassroots campaign for legalization of medical marijuana started in late November 2016. A friend shared with me a [Ride with Larry](#) video relating to medical marijuana's effects on Parkinson's disease. My friend has seen my Mother have Parkinson's disease tremors and knows there is no cure. My Mother deals with her body tremors daily. Being raised to be a law-abiding citizen, I have never been supportive of marijuana until I watched this video. The results of one drop of cannabis oil under Larry Smith's tongue immediately calming his body and allowing his speech to be understandable were very shocking.

As I began to research medical marijuana a lot of available information discusses the pain relief available for cancer patients. Also in late November 2016 my Dad's prostrate cancer checkups resulted in him having to start radiation treatments immediately because of the pain he was having where his prostrate cancer has attached to his lower back. He had been dealing with the pain since October and was more painful for him daily. The year 2016 was not a good year for my Dad, as we almost lost him in February from the effects of the chemotherapy he was taking. On Good Friday he made the decision to stop chemotherapy, concentrating on quality of life not quantity of life. In a family meeting, we supported his decision. We also discussed the possible need for medical marijuana when his pain from the cancer in his bones becomes unbearable. However, we all know medical marijuana is not legal in Kansas.

So my grassroots campaign began. On January 4, 2017 I had phone conversations with Senator Caryn Tyson and Representative Kent Thompson following up on an email I sent them. Senator Tyson discussed with me the Federal illegal issue. She requested I contact Representative Lynn Jenkins and Senator Jerry Moran. I did. Representative Lynn Jenkins responded legalization of marijuana has primarily been addressed at the state level. A recent phone call with Senator Jerry Moran's office response was medical marijuana is a STATE'S RIGHTS ISSUE.

As I have been researching and campaigning for legalization of medical marijuana, my Mother's needs have become more immediate for her relief. One Sunday in January her body tremors were so severe the church pew was shaking. My thoughts were another earthquake was being felt. Looking down from checking the stained glass window, I saw her whole body was shaking from her tremors. I wished right then and there I had a drop of cannabis oil to calm her body as I had seen Larry Smith's body calm down immediately. Thankfully we have been able to stabilize the spreading of my Dad's prostate cancer to his bones through monitoring his cancer with his monthly checkups.

So here I am, requesting you, the Federal and State Affairs Committee Members to support Senate Bill 155. As I have been on my legalization for medical marijuana grassroots campaign, I have learned Kansas is not a state where legalization of medical marijuana can be a General Election Ballot Vote in November 2017. The full protection of all rights of the patients in need, the rights of their caregivers and the rights of their family household lie in the hands of you, the Kansas Senators and Kansas Representatives elected to represent the voices of those needing tremor relief, cancer pain relief and many more medical issues.

But most importantly as my parent's caregiver, I am fighting for my parents to have relief of tremors and cancer pain when they are in need of relief. My biggest concern is in the final days of my Dad's life he will be in so much pain he will not want my Mother to touch him, hug him or kiss him after 63 plus years of marriage. My biggest concern is in the final days of my Mother's life she will be in so much pain from her body tremors she will not want my Dad to touch her, hug her or kiss her after 63 plus years of marriage.

Please, please, please have compassion for the People of Kansas who are in dire need of relief. Please allow them to have relief with the use of medical marijuana, a plant created by God, not a manmade addictive chemical drug with severe side affects and which is known to not always be effective. How can you disregard the sincere need of those you represent? Thank you again for the opportunity to share the needs of two lifelong residents of the State of Kansas.

**Marsha M Burris
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