

To House Federal & State Affairs Committee

My name is Kenrick Hausler, I am a disabled veteran and business owner in Topeka KS. I retired from the Kansas Army National Guard in May of 2018. I spent my entire career in various countries with different missions. When I retired, I had no real plan on what I wanted to do other than stay in Kansas and help as many people as I could, that was when I learned about CBD. My wife is a nurse and was instrumental in my education in this field. I was very standoffish about it back then.

I did not want to “do drugs” and did not want to be a complete waste. She explained to me that the prescriptions that I had been getting from the VA were causing more harm than good. Back then we would get whichever opiate was available. This was not a long-term solution as I had an extremely hard time functioning with the prescriptions I was taking. So eventually I caved and tried CBD. It was interesting, I slept hard the first couple of times I took it. From there I discovered that I felt better, my mind was clearer, and I begin to see a path.

I was horribly misinformed that marijuana was a gateway drug, that is flat out not true. I suffer from a few things that come along with military service in some of the things I did. I have a degenerative spine disease that is no fun at all, as well as have constant nerve pain down both legs. In addition to both of those physical ailments I also suffer from PTSD and Depression. The CBD helps with most of that; however, marijuana really calms the PTSD and Depression. I do not regularly consume THC as it is not legal or available in Kansas. However, with the business I am in I travel a lot to various states that are legal. When there I medicate, as necessary.

Veterans are high risk for not only questionable care at VA Hospitals, but also carry a high risk of suicide. The average number of suicides a day for veterans is 22, 22 suicides a day. I have experienced and witnessed firsthand how much THC can help. It is overall calming; I would much rather smell marijuana than see another preventable suicide.

I understand the opposition to passing a legal cannabis law, whole heartedly at least I used to. At this point in time I cannot agree with anything that would encourage prescription opiates, smoking cigarettes or even alcohol and criminalizes a plant.

I am currently the owner of the CBD Nation store in Topeka on 21<sup>st</sup>, I also own The Nation Labs. Both of these businesses have shown me a lot about this industry, we make a variety of CBD products. We currently manufacture products for 17 different companies, in addition to our own label, most of whom are not in Kansas. My customers that are in legal states ask me when I can take over the manufacturing of their THC products. I always tell them not until I can get a license. I am very well versed in the chemistry needed to make products and the various stages of the plant as well as the effects.

I have read the proposed bill a few times now and have to say I think it a pretty good first step. With a few caveats; the non smokable portion. This is very strange to me, the benefits of smoking cannabis are overwhelming and fast acting. I do not understand why that has been expressly removed, this will create further issues. Ohio tried this and are in the middle of restricting their law now, it didn't work and doesn't make any sense. This will create a brand new problem in the state, this will increase the black market sale and distribution of marijuana. In addition to increasing the black market, I would be that the federal government will remove it from the scheduled drug list this year. That in and of

itself should suggest to states that have no laws on legalization get moving. By not allowing smokable marijuana you will in effect lose on a large portion of tax revenue.

The other part of the bill that makes very little sense is the fees, they are way to high. When we look at the states that have recently passed a bill for example Oklahoma the fees there are \$2,500.00. That is significantly cheaper. Why would anyone pay that much for a license in Kansas every year? What are they getting for their money? I know if this is what passes I will move everything to another state with reasonable fees and work there. This is going to push away business in Kansas, we will see large business come in and then the prices will be so high no one will buy anything there. This will once again increase your black market, once again losing millions of much needed tax dollars for the State of Kansas.

There are a couple of things that could also help Kansas, the police budget. The overall budget for police would not have to be increased by removing an outdated law. We as a state could easily just restructure the budget that has already been allotted for marijuana and allow the police to work on important things like Meth or thefts. Those are far more important to the citizens and your constituents than marijuana. Every time there is a large bust for marijuana I get 15 messages at least from people thinking how much of a waste that is.

The other thing that I find completely fascinating is the fact that we all lost money in 2020 lots of money. Opening the doors to a new product could not only put us in a great position as a state but a great position in the industry. Kansas as a state could effectively bring a level a competition that has not existed in this industry. We are an AG state why shouldn't we grow things that command profits? This could not only increase tax revenue for Kansas, but it could also make up for the losses of tax revenue from 2020.