



Chairman Barker and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

My name is Victor Riggin and I am President of the Kansas Narcotics Officers Association (KNOA). As the President of KNOA I am writing this in strong opposition of HB2184 (Creating the Kansas medical marijuana regulation act). The bill proposes the legalization of medical marijuana. I am providing written testimony while we are still battling through the COVID-19 epidemic. I am extremely disappointed by leaders of this great State trying to fund other government projects with the idea of selling illegal narcotics. Marijuana is a Schedule I narcotic as defined by the Federal Government. As such the United States Federal Government says, "Schedule 1 drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse."

There are numerous issues with this bill. I will address a couple of the issues in this written testimony along with other issues regarding the legalization of marijuana in any form.

In the bill it talks about how plant material may not exceed 35% and extracts may not exceed 70% of THC. This is the only time extracts are addressed in the bill. As I further read the bill under the Laboratory section it does not address anything about the extraction of THC from the marijuana plant. The extraction of THC from the marijuana plant is extremely dangerous and this has resulted in labs blowing up across the United States. This is not just illegal THC Labs but also legal facilities as well. In May of 2020 Los Angeles Firefighters responded to a fire alarm in downtown Los Angeles. An explosion occurred which resulted in the injury to 11 firefighters to include 2 who were placed in critical condition.

I have personally testified before you and in the State Capital as to the dangers of legalizing marijuana and what that brings to your community. Dr. Eric Voth is an Internal Medicine Specialist in Topeka, KS. In 2015 Dr. Voth testified that, "Marijuana itself is not a benign recreational drug. Marijuana has serious toxic and long-term effects. As a smoked drug, it damages the lungs. Its use is associated with violence and spousal, domestic (and) dating abuse." In that 2015 testimony then Senator Laura Kelly asked Dr. Voth if a bill might be narrowly structured to allow the sale of marijuana by products to provide relief for children with chronic conditions. Dr Voth warned that bypassing the FDA structure in any way would pose an unacceptable risk. You ask why do I bring up that 2015 testimony? This past year we found ourselves fighting a worldwide pandemic. During that time we had to wait for an FDA approved

vaccination to save our lives from this deadly disease. While the FDA has approved several drugs which contain cannabinoids it has not approved the cannabis plant. The FDA has further stated that products containing THC or CBD cannot be sold legally as a dietary supplement. So I ask this question. If we are willing to go against FDA regulations and guidelines to make marijuana legal for medical purposes then why did we have to wait to take a vaccination that is killing hundreds of thousands of people?

The Marijuana plant contains roughly 540 different chemical substances. I believe that the science is there and KNOA would stand firmly against the passage of any bill in any form for legalization of marijuana. Governor Kelly asked a question 6 years ago and was warned about the dangers during testimony given. What has changed in the last six years? Nothing. Marijuana is still a dangerous illegal Schedule I controlled substance.

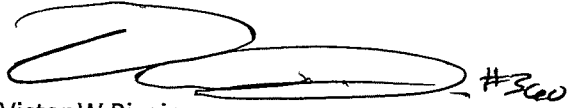
Let's have an honest conversation. The only reason advocates want to legalize marijuana for medical purposes is to lead Kansas down a path for the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes. This is clearly identified in this bill and written in the bill. Under the section of "Requirement to Use" it states, "A doctor's "recommendation" is not required for a person to use medical marijuana. Sec. 3, (b)(1). But a physician must certify the qualifying disease." So what we are saying is that this medical marijuana bill does not come with any recommendation for use by a doctor. Just that the doctor has certified you have a "qualifying disease". I know when I go see my doctor for treatment I am prescribed medications and given instructions for use by the doctor and/or pharmacist. I can not remember a time where a doctor diagnosed me with a condition and I told the doctor what I was going to take.

This has a devastating impact on our communities. It has previously been stated through prior testimony the immediate impact in regards to impaired driving, emergency room visits involving children and social impacts all directly tied to marijuana. Most of which is published in the Midwest HIDTA report. The latest trend is dispensary robberies. In 2020 in California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington have all seen a trend on armed robberies at local dispensaries. Some of these robberies led to the murder of innocent individuals in California and Oregon. It is believed that 1 out of every 2 marijuana dispensaries is robbed at gunpoint or burglarized. Organized Criminal Street Gangs see these "soft targets" as a great opportunity to get marijuana to sell on the black market and get money to further fund their illegal activities. As a homicide Detective myself I can assure you that marijuana is prevalent in my line of work and even being the motive in several of my investigations. Once again the legalization of marijuana in any form is dangerous to our community.

I would invite anyone of our State legislators to be my personal guest at the Kansas Narcotics officers Association Training Conference in a couple of weeks. Two of the classes at our conference deal directly with items listed in this bill (Marijuana Updates and Butane Hash Oil Labs).

I am a proud Kansan. As such I take a lot of pride in doing what is right and standing up for what is right. I am not influenced by what others are doing around me and I aim to be a leader in my community. I also have plans to be a Kansan for the rest of my life. This means I have a vested interest in the community for my children and grandchildren to be raised in. I am also one of hundreds of law enforcement officers in the State of Kansas who stand firmly against the legalization of marijuana in any form.

As the President of the Kansas Narcotics Officers Association I am here to tell you that our organization is against the legalization of marijuana in any form. Once again I am inviting any member in our State Government to our training conference and to sit down to further discuss this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor W. Riggins", with a small "#360" written to the right of the signature.

Victor W Riggins
President
Kansas Narcotics Officers Association

