

I extend my thanks to the committee for allowing this hearing and for taking my input into consideration. My name is Josh McMillin. I am a student, a small business owner, an employee of a hemp related business, and an active volunteer for hemp reform groups nationally as well as in the state of Kansas for the last 2 years. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB2706.

Hemp has the potential to be a booming industry in Kansas, but as Kansas law is now the average Kansan does not personally benefit from industrial hemp as a consumer or business owner without great difficulty and the risk of being held criminally liable. The restrictions eliminated by HB2706 have the potential to change the average Kansan's relationship to industrial hemp to one that is beneficial to consumers and profitable to large businesses, small businesses, and state revenue.

My main source of income comes from a business in Johnson County that sells hemp derived products for personal wellness. My customers and clientele are good people, productive citizens, and are in pursuit of their own health and wellness by using hemp derived products. The current opinion-based restrictions placed on businesses like mine, and my employer's, severely limit our options to provide alternative wellness products to our customers. CBD and other hemp-derived products are frequently purchased by customers with the intention of finding alternatives to prescription benzodiazepines and opioids to treat pain, anxiety, PTSD, arthritis, and so on.

With the freshly published opinions of several members in government positions, these consumers would be made into felons for simply pursuing health and wellness through lab-tested hemp products. After the recent opinions released regarding several hemp-derived products, my customers have been frustrated to the point that some are considering moving across state lines to be in a more hemp-friendly state where they are free to pursue their health and wellness in the manner they have chosen. Some have even indicated that with the new opinions that would turn them into felons, they would turn to procuring black market cannabis products if they could no longer purchase lab-tested hemp-derived products legally.

The products in hemp related businesses across the state are required to have certificates of analysis (COA), but once they are criminalized they will not have COAs and there could be incidents of contamination and great harm to those who turn to the black market in desperation to acquire products that work for them and their personal health. It has happened in the past, and the criminalization (and therefore, a lack of regulation) of these products is the culprit. Restricting these products to the point of criminalization is dangerous to consumers, many of whom are simply exercising their rights as American citizens to pursue their own health and happiness. Instead, I hope this committee considers the route of regulation over the route of criminalization. Hemp products with regulation, lab-testing, and COAs, are the safe and profitable route.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you wish to contact me for more information about my experience with hemp products and their safety, my email is decrimkansas@gmail.com. As a proud Kansan, I wish to see a brighter and healthier future for

this state, as well as a flourishing hemp industry. I hope you can support HB2706 and pass this bill out of committee favorably.

Feel free to edit it as you would like to make it suitable for your angle and for KS leg. I'm used to writing on these topics for a very leftist organization, but not for a highly conservative legislature. I hope this helps, if there is anything I can change or anything else I can do, please let me know.



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