

Testimony before the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15

Mr. Chair and members of the committee:

I'm Connie Kautz, a wife, mother, grandmother and registered nurse and I work at University of Kansas Hospital, St Francis Campus. I support this legislation, SB 113.

I have never smoked pot or used illegal drugs.

I have many health issues including several strokes/TIA's (TIA = mini stroke), seizures, antiphospholipid syndrome (APS, a rare blood clotting disorder), herniated disc's in thoracic spine and lumbar spine, metastatic carcinoid cancer (rare cancer that there is no cure for), gastroesophageal reflux (GERD), headaches, Patent foraminal ovale (PFO, an opening in the heart that doesn't close after birth) and aortic aneurysm. I can't take any narcotics. I get excruciating pain stemming from the thoracic spine and herniated disc that wraps around my chest like a vise clamps down on me. Tylenol isn't good for the liver. Ibuprofen/anti-inflammatories aren't good for the stomach. So I am left with no option for pain relief. I told KU about it when I had a transesophageal echo done and while I was under anesthetic the pain started and they had to hurry and remove the tube they had down my throat because I was unconsciously thrashing around. They had no idea how to treat me so I thrashed until my husband told them what to do for me. Then last April I had a bowel resection for cancer. I was too scared to take narcotics so went I went through the recovery only being able to take Tylenol. The surgery pain wasn't as scary as the pain from the narcotics.

My husband has had 3 back surgeries, 3 heart attacks and by-pass surgery. Morphine increases his pain, verified by KU head of neurosurgery.

Our daughter also has APS and suffers severe hand pain being unable to even type or hold a phone at times. Narcotics don't help at all, it's nerve pain and the nerve pain medications don't help her. She also has the same side effects from morphine increasing her pain, also verified in a hospital stay she had at St Vail hospital. Otherwise she is a very healthy 39-year-old but can't work at a very good job she loved.

Our son has herniated discs. Won't give pain medication because of opioid crisis and anti-inflammatories don't help. Another son's arm was broken in 2 with a spiral fracture and his back was broken in 7 places. They would only give him 1 low strength lortab 3 times a day for pain. They wouldn't give him anymore because of opioid crisis. He suffered tremendously.

A friend has seizures. Seizure meds aren't stopping them. She started CBD oil with THC and she hasn't had a seizure since.

All of the above statements are true and have medical documentation that could be presented for evidence if needed.

I feel the use of medical marijuana just using the above examples and unlimited other medical issues would be a cause for giving Kansan's a choice of another way to be pain free. Too many truly suffer now and if there was a way there could be help available it should be able to be offered. Non opioid use is going on and people are suffering. There are many cases in other areas of the success of medical marijuana and I pray Kansas will join in offering this option for its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Connie Kautz

