

To whom it may concern:

My name is David Roy Swain. I am 69 years old. I have resided in Kansas most of my life. I have six children and eleven grandchildren. I am a disabled Vietnam veteran. 100% Permanent and Total disability. My disabling condition is PTSD.

I was in a very numb and dark place for many years. I tried a multitude of prescription medications over a period of 30 years. I also was in therapy for over thirty years. These things helped, some more than others. A lot of the medicines that I used either did not adjust my problems enough or the side effects were so profound that I could not continue to take them.

Cannabis grew wild all around me in Kansas where I lived. I had used cannabis occasionally since my return from Vietnam in 1969. The illegality of it and the ways that it could be obtained provided a great deterrence. As my search for something that would relieve some of the PTSD symptoms that I was experiencing I decided to try Cannabis medicinally. Cannabis was being used by other vets for the same thing. States like California, allowed its use, medicinally. Slowly but effectively I began to see that I tended to sleep better and the not so normal physical pain, anxiety, inflammation, fear, hypervigilance, lack of sleep, and a multitude of other conditions that I was suffering from seemed to improve. There did not seem to be the overwhelming after effects either.

Cannabis until 1937 had a myriad of uses. Cannabis could be prescribed for over 400 different ailments. In my experience with Cannabis, overall, it seemed to make the quality of my life better in relationship to the different ailments that I suffered from. I used it and would like to continue to use it. I am convinced that the legalization of Cannabis for medicinal purposes is basically what it was in 1936. I am not sure if Cannabis was legal for recreational use then but it absolutely was for medicinal use. Making it illegal for medicinal use is throwing the baby out with the bath wash.

This law needs to be changed. You have the power to right a wrong. The Veterans Administration does not condemn the use of Cannabis in those states that have legalized it. Incarcerating people and ruining people's lives for using Cannabis is not the answer.

Thank you, David Roy Swain