

June Bell, Cottonwood Falls - Personal Testimony of Medicinal Marijuana Success

Hello and thank you so much for this opportunity to share with you my personal experience with medical cannabis - I am a proponent of SB 113. I am here on behalf of myself, my husband who has several health issues that medicinal marijuana could be of great help (glaucoma, arthritis, back and shoulder issues, skin cancers) as well as many other folks who suffer needlessly every day in this state.

I was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago and had a lumpectomy with no further treatment. Last spring a new lump surfaced. After hearing from the oncologist that my choices were either another lumpectomy or a mastectomy, I began researching the 'standard of care' and comparing it with the many natural alternatives available. This time I opted to go to California to be able to use my choice of treatment, medical cannabis. In the protocol I chose I had to stay for three months away from my husband and family in order to take daily doses. After the three months, a breast cancer marker blood test showed a 14 with the normal range being 1 - 30! In addition, at the time of my arrival in CA I had four skin cancers, a very red and itchy case of eczema on my legs as well as plantar warts on both feet. Besides the good blood test report, all of these other issues were gone at the time of my return to Kansas, October 31, 2018!

For me to continue to feel confident in my treatment I should be doing small maintenance doses each day. I could do this with little to no cost if I was allowed to grow just two plants each year. Therefore I have introduced an amendment for your consideration that would allow patients to grow up to four plants for their own personal medical needs. Update - As I stand here today, four months after my treatment, with no maintenance doses the eczema has returned.

Once diagnosed with cancer, most people try to eat more healthy foods and many believe it's important to try to consume as much organic food as possible. This also applies to cannabis. With the ability to grow my own medicine I could be sure of the quality and purity of what I put in my body. Another aspect of the ability to grow my own medicine would be the cost. As with many wounded veterans and others, the undoubtedly high cost of buying the cannabis products needed from a dispensary would be a hardship financially for my husband and I.

If you haven't already, I would urge you all to research the Endocannabinoid System within our bodies that was discovered in the 1990's. "Endocannabinoid receptors are found throughout the body on the surface of cells in the brain, organs, tissues, and glands. These receptors are embedded in cell membranes and produce varying reactions when stimulated by cannabinoids. Cannabinoids come from two distinct places - the body, which produces naturally occurring endocannabinoids, and the cannabis plant, which produces phytocannabinoids." Quoted from [The Endocannabinoid System: How Cannabis Affects The Human Body](http://www.cannainsider.com/reviews/the-endocannabinoid-system/), found at www.cannainsider.com/reviews/the-endocannabinoid-system/. If our bodies were designed with receptors for this plant, it makes sense that it would have many benefits for us!

And it is interesting to me that while the U.S. Government criminalized cannabis (a category 1 substance), it also holds a patent on the medical benefits of cannabis--Patent #6630507 issued to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in February of 2001.

Thank you again for your time and for your consideration in this matter.
June Bell