



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 113

March 13, 2019

Chairman Gene Suellentrop and Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90% of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 113 regarding medical marijuana.

The approved conditions that marijuana can treat, the amount of marijuana that the patient can possess, the cultivation process, and registration requirements vary widely. KAAP opposes “medical marijuana” outside the regulatory process of the US Federal Drug Administration (FDA). Because marijuana is not regulated by the FDA and the purity and THC content cannot be consistently verified, the risk-benefit cannot be determined.

Marijuana is classified a Schedule I drug by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), signifying the drug has a high potential for abuse, no accepted medical use, and there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or substance under medical supervision. Cannabinoids, which are components of marijuana have been proven to be effective in treatment of specific conditions in adults including nausea, vomiting, and chronic pain conditions. Currently, three pharmaceutical cannabinoids have been approved by the FDA. Though anecdotal accounts have shown that certain cannabinoids could benefit children with certain chronic debilitating disease, there has been no published studies about the effects on cannabinoids on the pediatric population. It is reasonable to expect that children may respond differently.

The AAP recognizes that anecdotal accounts have shown that certain marijuana compounds could benefit some children with chronic life-limiting, debilitating conditions. For this reason the AAP strongly supports research and development of pharmaceutical cannabinoids and supports a review of policies promoting research on the medical use of these compounds. We support lowering marijuana from schedule I to schedule II designation by the DEA to facilitate this research.

In states where marijuana is sold, either for medical or recreational purposes, regulations should be enacted to ensure that marijuana in all forms is distributed in childproof packaging to prevent unintentional ingestion.

No drug should ever be administered through smoking. Smoking marijuana has a well-documented negative effect on lung function.



KANSAS CHAPTER

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

References:

American Lung Association-Marijuana and Lung Effects <http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/smoking-facts/marijuana-and-lung-health.html>

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) www.drugabuse.gov

Thank you for your time and attention. We welcome any questions you might have and are happy to serve as your resource on all pediatric issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dena Hubbard, MD, FAAP

Legislative Coordinator

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics