

Member  
Community Anti-Drug  
Coalitions of America  
(CADCA)



Kansas Partner  
National Family Partnership

...building partnerships to raise drug-free successful youth

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health Care Strategies

February 11, 2008

Karl Fruendt, President, Board of Directors, Kansas Family Partnership, Inc.

Dear Senator Wagle, Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I come before you today as a concerned Kansan, a single father of four, community volunteer and Board President of the Kansas Family Partnership. I come to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 556 and to not advance it out of this committee.

Across the country, efforts have been made to legalize marijuana for "medical purposes". If there were truly a real need for smoked marijuana, the American Medical Association, the American Pediatrics Association, and the many subspecialties in the medical field would be calling for this legislation. If smoking marijuana was good medicine, these specialists would be crying out for the need for marijuana for their patients. This is not the case nationally nor in the state of Kansas. I would hope that this legislative body would not be swayed by anecdotal stories about this perceived need. I would hope that science and research would rule your decisions. I also hope that this body will consider the litany of unintended consequences that have occurred as a result in the states that have voted to have "medical marijuana as a defense" to prosecution.

I ask you to consider what will greater access to marijuana do? Will we have pharmacies in Kansas that provide pot? Will we have street corner pot shops like California? Will we be able to get marijuana from a vending machine as they now have in California? **Will communities need to create moratoria to undo a morass caused by pot dispensaries?** Is Kansas willing to go against the recommendation of the Federal Drug Administration and basically say "Your rules for what is considered a safe medicine don't apply in Kansas?" How do we as parents tell our kids that marijuana is harmful as the research shows? Will they believe us if it is legal for some, but not for others?

One of our greatest concerns is with young people. In virtually every student group we meet, young people use the medical excuse discussion as justification for marijuana use. It reduces the perception of harm and reduces important preventative community norms. Remember, even the leaders of the marijuana movement see the medical excuse as a way to get the "camel's nose under the tent" with marijuana.

Attached to my testimony is a list of seven statewide organizations and 26 local and county individuals, organizations and coalitions who oppose the use of leaf marijuana as a medicine. This list includes representatives from the medical community, pharmacists, nurses, law enforcement, schools, health departments, substance abuse prevention and treatment facilities, business owners, pharmacists, judges and community coalitions. Please join with the more than 4,000 concerned Kansans this list represents in saying no to medical excuse marijuana by voting no to SB 556. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Fruendt, President, Board of Directors  
Kansas Family Partnership, Inc.

**Resolutions Signed Against the Availability of  
Leaf Marijuana for Medicinal Purposes**

**Organizations**

**Statewide Organizations**

Kansas Board of Healing Arts  
Kansas Family Partnership, Inc.  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kansas Narcotics Officers Association  
Kansas State Board of Pharmacy  
Kansas State Nurses Association  
Regional Prevention Center Directors Association of Kansas

*Sandy Mark Staffors*

*NO. Pr. Terri Roberts They do not*

*oppose  
SB 556*

**Community and County Organizations**

Central Kansas Foundation  
Chase County Drug Free Action Team, Inc.  
Cheyenne County Kids Making a Connection Coalition  
Communities in Schools of Harvey County  
Community Partnership for Prevention & Education  
DCCCA, Inc. — ?  
Decatur County Interagency Team  
District Court of Phillips County  
Ronald Eisenbarth, NCAC II, Owner/Manager  
Emporians for Drug Awareness  
Graham County Communities That Care Coalition  
Harvey County Drug-Free Youth Coalition  
Logan County Community Action Team  
Natoma FADD  
Norton County Council on Alcohol/Drugs  
Phillipsburg High School  
Phillipsburg Elementary School  
Prevention and Recovery Services  
Rooks County Communities That Care  
Rooks County Health Department  
Safe Streets Coalition  
Smith County Health Department  
Smith County Drug & Alcohol Council  
Thomas County Coalition  
Topeka-Shawnee County Alcohol  
Trego County Juvenile Justice Authority