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JOE WIESE,-TX

Dear Senator Wagle:

Recently, the Kansas Medical Society, Kansas State Nurses Association, Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, and the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy have taken positions opposing the use of marijuana as a medicine. I hope that you will not allow such a flawed concept to progress.

It is most important to understand that legislative actions giving access to marijuana seriously jeopardize consumer protection. Our processes for bringing medicine to the public have been established so that science, not emotion, prevails. Medicine needs come through the FDA to assure safety and efficacy. The FDA opposes medical excuse marijuana and such legislative actions. More importantly, the recent legislative initiatives create medicine by popular vote.

What other drug would even be considered appropriate to deliver by smoking. Marijuana is not a safe drug, and is far from clearly effective. The active ingredients of marijuana are already available to the public by medical prescription. There is no advantage to smoking marijuana over available medications.

Allowing such legislation to become law is riding a wave of emotion and mob psychology that has been carefully crafted, financed, and driven by the marijuana lobby. They have declared that medical excuse marijuana is the battlefield to gain the overall legalization of pot. It is no different than the disinformation campaign that the tobacco lobby fought for years to manipulate the public.

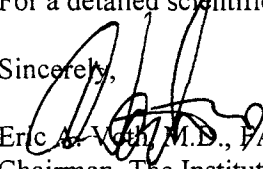
While advocates may have their own opinions, they may not create their own facts. I have worked in opposition to the medical marijuana movement for close to 30 years, and the advocates strategy remains the same; play to emotion, overstate the benefits of marijuana, use the medical excuse to get the camel's nose under the tent and then push for more legal access to pot.

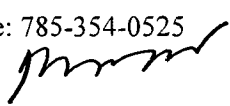
Some of the most consistently identified problems with marijuana are the effect on memory, concentration, and coordination. Studies have found that not only does marijuana have this effect acutely, but some effects have been identified even after 2 years of abstinence. The effects on driving skills and coordination are extremely serious, and marijuana is regularly implicated in trauma. Marijuana also has effects on the lungs, and has been found to damage lung immunity. Marijuana has serious effects on the fetus which has been documented not only at birth, but have also been seen in the children who used during pregnancy.

Supporting medical excuse marijuana either reflects serious ignorance of the medical literature, or malignant misrepresentation of it. Medicine and policy makers need to let cool heads prevail and stop this circus of medicine by popular vote which is dangerous and which plays in to the pot legalization lobby.

For a detailed scientific discussion of the medical excuse issue see [www.globaldrugpolicy.org](http://www.globaldrugpolicy.org)

Sincerely,

  
Eric A. Voth, M.D., FACP  
Chairman, The Institute on Global Drug Policy  
Topeka

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*Voth said that KSNA  
opposed this legislation  
is this true?  
Terri Roberts said no.*