



TALKING POINTS

WHY LEGALIZED RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS BAD FOR MICHIGAN

Here are talking points to use when conveying to your fellow voters for why recreational marijuana should NOT be made legal in Michigan, on the November 2018 ballot.

THE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA INDUSTRY TARGETS OUR YOUTH

- **The Marijuana Industry Deceives Our Youth:** They not only come up with gummy bears to entice young people (remember that's how they make their money) but they target people whose brains are developing to create lifelong customers.
- **They Distract Families - in Midst of Opioid Crisis:** They manage to convince people in the midst of an opioid epidemic that making more drugs more accessible isn't really that bad. Which of course, when you think logically, doesn't make any sense.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA MAKES FOR DANGEROUS DRIVERS

- **Police Officers will Not be Able to Control Drugged Driving:** People using recreational marijuana will continue to drive. As the drug influences senses, it will influence alertness and safety in driving. If Police Officers pull someone over from impaired driving, they will have no way of gauging, testing, or disciplining drivers for irresponsible behavior pertaining to recreational marijuana use.
- **Drugged Driving Endangers Other Drivers:** In Washington state, marijuana-impaired driving fatalities have more than doubled. One in five drivers are under the influence of marijuana. That is up from one in 10 prior to legalization. 64.2% of respondents who reported using marijuana and driving, stated they didn't think it impaired their ability to drive at all (Source: Washington Traffic Safety Commission).

TODAY'S MARIJUANA IS NOT THE MARIJUANA YOUR PARENTS USED

- **Marijuana Concentrates Can Now Contain Up to 90% THC** (the active ingredient in marijuana). With newer high potency THC, we are seeing increased hospitalizations and mental health concerns.
- **Marijuana as Plant Matter Can Now Contain Up to 25% THC.** Marijuana in the 1960's, in the same form, contained less than 1% THC.
- Michigan citizens will be allowed to possess up to 15 grams of marijuana concentrate, 2.5 ounces of plant matter on their person, 10 ounces of plant matter at home, and 12 plants at home, **giving Michiganders the highest possession limit in the nation.**

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA INCREASES CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- **Who is Your Neighbor? With Recreational Marijuana Legalization, It Could Be the Drug Cartel:** Police in Colorado have documented that cartel organizations are purchasing homes and setting up drug operations in Colorado. The reason is simple: it is easier for them to operate where marijuana is legal, and the prices can be undercut.
- The Colorado Attorney General (where recreational marijuana has been legal for 6 years now) Cynthia Coffman stated, "**The criminals are still selling on the black market. We have plenty of illegal activity that has not decreased at all.**" (2/23/15 US News)

WHY LEGALIZED RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS BAD FOR MICHIGAN

(Recreational Marijuana Increases Criminal Activity cont.)

- **A Black Market Exists When Regulated Prices Can Be Undercut.** When you tax and regulate something in a very draconian way, as this is being proposed, legality does not remove the black market.

THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION.

- **False Comparison:** We are being presented with this false dichotomy that when it comes to recreational marijuana we either have to legalize it or people will be incarcerated for using it.
- **The Answer is Not Tobacco 2.0:** We don't want people to go to prison for smoking marijuana, but the answer to that isn't Big Tobacco 2.0. The answer to that is increased education and awareness campaigns.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

It is imperative that Michigan citizens understand that Medical marijuana was made legal in Michigan in 2008. This ballot initiative is about recreational marijuana and nothing about influencing medical marijuana.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS NOT GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY

- **Recreational Marijuana Will Hurt Local Economies:** In business communities, the unemployment rate hovers between 4.3% and 4.5%. There is a need and a want for entry level, and skilled trades jobs. Recreational marijuana legalization will make hiring practices harder for employers.
- **It Will Discourage Businesses** from relocating to Michigan, or staying in Michigan.
- **Employers Will Not Be Protected:** There are no explicit statutory protections for employers, and no easy impairment test when it comes to employers confronting potential (or current) employees on marijuana use. Open-ended liability will be an issue.



Questions? Email us at

info@healthyandproductivemi.org



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OUR GOAL WITH HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE MICHIGAN IS:

Awareness: To inform public policy with the science of today's marijuana.

Reform: To have honest conversations about legal reforms that include reducing the unintended consequences of current marijuana policies, such as lifelong stigma due to arrest.

Prevention: To prevent the establishment of Big Marijuana that would market marijuana to children and to prevent Big Tobacco from taking over Big Marijuana. Those are the very likely results of legalization.

Research: To promote research on marijuana in order to obtain FDA-approved, pharmacy-dispensed, cannabis-based medications.