
From: Keith Babby <graphicstars@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 12:56 AM
To: ATG Help
Subject: [EXT] When you were offline (via LivePerson)

I would like to thank Attorney General Marty Jackley for the initiated measure which could legalize marijuana in the State of South Dakota. The revenue alone generated from it is worth it and I cannot believe so many are opposed to it with so much science and research behind it. Additionally, it is the right step to take if we are to get a handle on things like addiction. It is my stance that pharmaceutical companies knowingly made and marketing very addictive substances such as oxycodone and hydrocodone that created a crises. Just as addictive as heroin itself which has no medical use whatsoever. But being that he has proposed that measure, he would be well aware of all of the benefits that cannabis does bring for the State and for individuals as well who are responsible just like alcohol is legal to drink and many enjoy just fine. Of course it is well known that many struggle with alcohol, but that doesn't mean we blame the alcohol and say well, we have to outlaw alcohol now. I appreciate his view on these topics and it is a great thing to see Mr Jackley propose this. Thank you.

The above message was sent when you were offline, via your LivePerson account.

Message sent from IP: 142.0.9.55

Dougherty, Debbie

From: Tom Kaps <mcdeptom50@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 1:12 PM
To: ATG Ballot Comments
Subject: [EXT] Cannabis for Recreation Use - law for Sioux Falls

To Whom It May Concern,

After reading a recent news article today where Matthew Schweich from Sioux Falls is promoting a law/regulation to "legalize recreational marijuana", I could not believe someone would support such reckless desires for our community. Please let me explain.

I have had direct experience in dealing with "recreational marijuana" laws as a former police officer from California (I'm retired now, and have lived here in SD since June 2022). The increase of police calls to residential areas for "home invasion robberies" (where guns and violent force was used) was on the rise when I retired from the force, along with other related calls of service. These victims were people possessing marijuana ("legal growing" and possessing) in their personal/rented/or leased homes by groups of criminals (2+ persons) that would force their way in to steal the "personal use" recreational marijuana items. This put innocent and unsuspecting neighbors and children at risk by the activities of "victims" that legally possessed recreational marijuana in their homes, thus making quiet neighborhoods places of violence and needless danger.

Also, once retired, I went to several weekly public county supervisors meetings where I heard from Sheriff, Law Enforcement officials, and other county administrators discuss how they were now protecting "legal marijuana growing" facilities and going after "unauthorized and illegal marijuana growers". This was diverting law enforcement resources away from already over-taxed and under-staffed police services. Many additional comments could be heard by the public about supporting legal drug dealers and attacking unlawful drug dealers, how can we tell the difference?

And then, I also had the opportunity in talking with two marijuana distribution store owners, where they had difficulty in depositing their monies/profits into a banks (since marijuana sales is still a federal crime, and banks are under federal regulation) where depositing monies into a bank would be considered criminal "money laundering". Many financial transactions also had to be "cash sales" which could be in the millions, and the store owner could be subject to physical harm or violence.

I have also talked with a few medical and psychological professionals, where they have told me they have seen the California homeless increase due to people "self medicating" on marijuana. These self medicating people refuse to be seen by proper health care professionals, since marijuana was easy to obtain. All we have to do is look at those areas (cities and states) that have allowed recreational marijuana, and we will see a correlation of increased homelessness, increased crime, increased violence, trespassing on public lands and increased costs of government services in cleaning up the problems from the secondary and tertiary issues. Which then poses the question to be asked, thinking of government budgets, "Which government services should be budget-impacted/reduced to deal with the problems related to recreational marijuana, should we cut or reduce budgets in: schools, parks & street maintenance, criminal justice, health & social services, etc.???" It's not a matter of IF services will be cut, but WHAT and WHEN should we shift public-monies to support recreational marijuana.

Any law or effort to decriminalize marijuana will place innocent people at risk of physical harm from secondary and tertiary activities on a grander scale than people realize, where recreational marijuana supports will deny any such problems. I have escaped this type of community and environment, and all we have to do is look at states that have passed recreational marijuana laws to see the failures and destruction that it does in fact cause.

Please feel free to contact me at any time on this topic.


In all respect,

Thomas Kaps

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Canton, SD 57013

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Romans 12:2 

From Tom's iPad :-)

Dougherty, Debbie

From: Donald Ferguson <df74371@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 3:11 AM
To: ATG Ballot Comments
Subject: [EXT] Outline draft

And the outline draft as stated. Can be found here. Yet when I hit suggested HERE. Nothing pops up. How come??