



**We must protect our children. NYS PTA strongly opposes all attempts to legalize recreational marijuana.**

**These proposals are a threat to public safety.**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse details in a 2019 report that marijuana use dangerously impairs driving in a number of ways: by slowing reaction time, decreasing coordination, and impairing judgment of time and distance. Poly-substance use—using marijuana along with alcohol or another drug—compounds the risk of a vehicle crash more than the drugs being used alone. Nevertheless, marijuana-impaired driving is rising while the perception of its negative consequences is decreasing.

A 2019 survey conducted by AAA found that only 70% of drivers perceived driving within an hour of using marijuana as extremely dangerous or very dangerous, compared with 95.1% who felt that driving under the influence of alcohol above the legal limit was extremely or very dangerous.

Of respondents between the ages of 19 and 24, only 57.9% believed that driving under the influence of marijuana was extremely or very dangerous. Among drivers between the ages of 19 and 24, 20.4% completely or somewhat approved of driving shortly after using marijuana.

## OPPOSE

# The Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

**Our communities, families and children deserve to be safe on our roads.**

An increase in marijuana use will be highly taxing upon all law enforcement agencies and dangerous to motorists.

Unlike a case of Driving While Intoxicated involving alcohol, **there is NO drug testing procedure or device equivalent to a breath chemical alcohol test.**

According to the results of Washington's Roadside Survey, "**nearly one in five daytime drivers may be under the influence of marijuana**, up from less than one in 10 drivers prior to the implementation of marijuana retail sales."

The Washington State Healthy Youth Survey found that in 2018, **16% of 12th graders drove after using marijuana and 24% rode with a driver who was using marijuana.**

In 2018, **18.2% of all traffic fatalities in Colorado** involved a driver who tested positive for marijuana.

The Colorado State Patrol reported in January of 2021 that **marijuana related DUIs were up 48%** in 2020 versus 2019.

A recent report released by AAA found that the number of drivers **who tested positive for marijuana after a fatal crash doubled** after legalization in Washington state.

Many of the marijuana "legal" states failed to establish laws or guidance prior to legalizing marijuana, leaving law enforcement officers in the dark as legislators played catch-up to dangerous trends. As a result, road safety was greatly compromised.

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