



ON AGENDAS - OPPOSE A.1248-A/S.854-A

A YES vote is a vote to harm our children

We are truly disappointed and disheartened that legislation to legalize recreational marijuana is moving in the legislature.

NYS PTA wants to be clear, a yes vote on this bill is a vote to hurt children.

The data is clear from other states who have legalized - this will physically and mentally harm our children. This will make our roads less safe. This will lead to serious illness and death.

- California, Nevada and Oregon saw horrible trends: once legalized, youth marijuana usage significantly increased
- The University of Michigan reported that between 2017 and 2018 the percentage of 8th and 10th graders who report “vaping” marijuana increased 63%
- From 2005 to 2015, the number of youth ages 13-20 who went to urgent care for marijuana related illnesses increased 172%
- In Colorado after legalization, marijuana impaired driving deaths went up 150%
- According to the Colorado Department of Public Health, the percentage of adolescent suicide victims testing positive for marijuana continues to increase - between 2014-2016, 22.4% of youth who died by suicide tested positive for marijuana (compared with 9.3% for alcohol)
- Marijuana-related poisoning hospitalization rates in Colorado rose by 143% from 2012 to 2017
- the American Medical Association, the American Lung Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics all concluded marijuana is a dangerous drug and a serious public health concern and opposed recreational legalization
- 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 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.

This legislation fails to address ANY of the concerns of advocates:

- This doesn't adequately protect youth from marijuana dealers or pot shops selling to minors
- Pot shops are still allowed to be close in proximity to schools and parks
- This allows home delivery service for marijuana, including homes with children
- Up to 6 pot plants can be grown in homes, including homes with children
- Law enforcement issues are still NOT adequately addressed
- There are no meaningful safeguards in this legislation to keep marijuana out of the hands of youth
- The language regarding the prohibition of marketing to youth is weak and we know from vaping, this language is not effective

We PLEAD with legislators – Your vote, your voice, can protect children. VOTE NO on this legislation.

For more information, please contact Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky, Esq.,
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