

Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Inc.

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The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Oppose the Legalization of Marijuana

There has been a great deal of publicity and discussion recently regarding the legalization of marijuana. As those who are sworn to protect and to serve the public, we believe that the legalization of marijuana will be detrimental to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Supporters of the expansion of drug use argue the alleged financial benefits from drug sales. However, they neglect to mention the financial costs due to the negative impact on the users, communities and the state. Though this social experiment is young – negative effects of drug use are already starting to be realized in other states.

Our STRONG opposition is based on several factors

CRIME

- The crime rate in Colorado has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation since legalization, with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation reporting an 8.3% increase in property crimes and 18.6% increase in violent crimes.

DANGER ON OUR ROADS

- In Colorado, drugged driving went from killing roughly one person every 6.5 days to now every 2.5 days, since legalization was passed.
- In Colorado and Washington State, marijuana-impaired driving fatalities have more than doubled.
- One in five drivers in Washington State are under the influence of marijuana, up from one in 10 prior to legalization.
- In Washington State, the number of traffic deaths due to marijuana-impaired drivers doubled in the year after recreational marijuana was legalized. In Colorado, the number of fatal accidents involving marijuana rose by 62 percent since its recreational use was legalized in 2012.
- The frequency of drivers in fatal crashes in Washington State who tested positive for THC, alone or in a combination with alcohol or other drugs, skyrocketed 111 percent from the previous four-year average.
- One out of four drivers in Colorado and the State of Washington admit to driving within one hour of using marijuana.

WORKPLACE

- In the workplace marijuana positivity rates are up in legalized states, which is a risk for employers and the public. As of 2018, positivity rates are up 48% in Nevada, 14% in Massachusetts, and 11% in California.
- In the general workforce, marijuana positivity increased 4% from 2017 while it increased nearly 8% in the safety-sensitive workforce.

Law enforcement is sworn to protect citizens. We are also the first line of defense in identifying and reducing drugged offenses. Legalizing marijuana simply puts Wisconsin citizens at risk.

WE URGE YOU TO NOT SUPPORT THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA