

PARTS – The Legalization For Recreational Use of Marijuana

Recreational use of marijuana has been legalized in California and with this comes questions pertaining to our stance on the issue. PARTS has great concern that with the legalization of recreational use of marijuana there will be an increase with use among children and teens and in turn create ongoing substance use concerns.

As with other states that have legalized the recreational use of marijuana, dispensaries are often how individuals purchase their product. These dispensaries provide marijuana in numerous forms including edibles. These edibles are often in the form of candy and other items that look like snacks children may already eat. As a result, children have unknowingly ingested these edibles with tragic results. According to a 2016 report by Smart Approaches to Marijuana Colorado and Washington have seen an increase in accidental poisonings. Prior to legalizations of recreational marijuana Colorado reported 61 poisonings and 151 after legalization. This is a 148% increase from 2012-2014. Children under the age of 5 accounted for 15 poisonings in 2012 and 38 in 2014, this is a 153% increase. Washington reports a 52% increase of poisoning among all ages.

Dispensaries require additional police protection and may impact the health and safety of neighbors and neighborhoods. It's imperative that cities utilize taxes collected by dispensaries to increase the presence of law enforcement efforts, prevention and educational programs to discourage and prevent underage use.

Marijuana is produced to have various strengths of THC, the ingredient that causes the "high" and growers have concentrated their efforts on producing stronger and stronger marijuana products. This is concerning due to the lack of regulation by a governing body pertaining to the THC strength within marijuana in all its forms. As THC levels are increased potential danger is evident. Per the White House fact sheet on marijuana, the potency of marijuana seized by the government has increased 103% between 1998 and 2004. It is anticipated that this will continue to grow with legalization of marijuana for recreational use as growers compete for the market share.

Drug use is a serious problem within Monterey Peninsula and PARTS has dedicated itself to ensuring that measures are taken to educate its younger residents and parents on its dangers. PARTS is determined to ensure that no one under the age of 21 ingests marijuana in any of its available forms and to ensure that the enforcement of marijuana in any form is illegal to those under the age of 21.