RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, we are committed to the success and positive future of our youth, and to the health and safety of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is addictive, particularly for adolescents¹; and

WHEREAS, more teens report using marijuana than tobacco in San Diego County²; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement³; and

WHEREAS, frequent users of today's highly potent marijuana lose an average of eight IQ points. Students who are frequent users are 3 times less likely to enter college, 4 times less likely to earn a college degree, and 6 times more likely to drop out of school than non users; and

WHEREAS, people who are dependent on marijuana frequently have other comorbid mental disorders including but not limited to anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and personality disturbances; and population studies also reveal an association between cannabis use and increased risk of schizophrenia; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is the second leading substance for which people seek drug treatment and a driving force behind emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, where recreational marijuana is legal and commercialized, teen use of marijuana is 50% above the national average, and marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92% from 2010 to 2014 while all traffic deaths increased only 8 percent during the same time period; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use leads to higher health and safety costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we believe the legalization and commercialization of marijuana for recreational use will increase advertising, availability, and use by adolescents and lead to negative consequences to the health and safety of our citizens; we support public education on the harms of marijuana and proven prevention interventions such as community-based prevention coalitions, drug courts, offender re-entry programs and probation reform; and further support making drug treatment available to all who need it.

Signed this ______ day of ______________

By __________________________________

Name, Title and Organization
REFERENCES AND SOURCES:


For quick reference, see "Drug Facts: Marijuana": National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:


2 California Healthy Kids Survey (need exact citation)

3 (same as 1)

http://www.acpeds.org/marijuana-use-detrimental-to-youth


ARIZONA REFERENCES


For quick reference, see "Drug Facts: Marijuana": National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:


For quick reference, see "Arizona Youth Survey 2012: Marijuana Data Brief."


For quick reference, see "Drug Facts: Marijuana": National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:

**Meier, Madeline H.; Caspi, Avshalom, et. al., "Persistent Cannabis Users Show Neuropsychological Decline From Childhood to Midlife," *Proceedings Of the National Academy Of Sciences Of the United States Of America*, vol. 109 no. 40, October 2, 2012.**

Callins, Kathryn, "Early Onset, Regular Cannabis Use Is Linked to IQ Decline," National Institute on Drug Abuse; August 13, 2013.

Accompanying video presentation by Dr. Madeline Meier, located at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJXmXIYupE&feature=youtube_gdata. "Marijuana's Lasting Effects on the Brain," National Institute on Drug Abuse; March 2013.

"Heavy marijuana users have abnormal brain structure and poor memory," Science Codex, December 6, 2013.

"Heavy marijuana users have abnormal brain structure and poor memory," Science Codex, December 6, 2013.


"Is there a link between marijuana use and mental illness?" National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.


For quick reference, see "Drug Facts: Marijuana": National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:


This prediction by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is an extrapolation based on the data included in the "Arizona Youth Survey: State Report," Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.


"Marijuana in the Workplace," University of Washington, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute; August, 2015.

Thirsty pot farms stealing water amid drought

DEA cites water use by growers in annual report on marijuana growing eradication efforts

By Lyndsay Winkley | 5:48 p.m. Dec. 10, 2015 | Updated 5:51 p.m.

A marijuana growing operation on Palomar Mountain shot from the air. (Can you spot the marijuana?) DEA

About 72 million gallons of water were used to irrigate San Diego County’s thirsty and illegal marijuana operations, enough to serve 440 families for a year, and that’s only for the ones that were found.

Law enforcement officials made that statement Thursday at a news conference at the Drug Enforcement Administration’s San Diego office as they announced the number of illegal pot plants seized countywide so far this year.

DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge Gary Hill said it takes about 900 gallons of water to grow an outdoor marijuana plant to harvest, and about half that for an indoor plant.

"With the ongoing drought here in California, we’re all aware of how important it is to conserve water ... but what most people don’t realize is how much water is used to grow a marijuana plant and that most of that water is stolen," Hill said.

And, he said, most of the 98 indoor and outdoor pot operations that were shut down by the county’s Narcotics Task Force and its partners used stolen water or water sucked from natural sources.

One 13,000-plant farm, nestled in the foliage of Palomar Mountain, sucked a nearby natural spring dry, Hill said. He said another operation illegally siphoned water from a Valley Center Municipal Water District hydrant.

Gary Arant, general manager of the Valley Center district, said water theft of all sorts, including illegal marijuana operations, could easily undo the "outstanding effort" of residents to conserve water, and even result in fines for water districts that don’t meet conservation quotas set by the state.

"We encourage customers to contact us immediately if they see suspicious activity around water facilities such as recently disturbed soil ... open and disturbed meter boxes ... or hoses connected or near some of our hydrants," Arant said.
In all, 88,213 plants were seized, compared to 131,818 marijuana plants from 103 locations during the same period last year.

Hill said the number of indoor growing operations stayed about the same, but outdoor farms decreased about 20 percent in 2015. He attributed that decline to the drought as well, saying water is harder to come by.

Law enforcement teams also found fewer hash oil labs, from 54 in 2014 to 34 in 2015. Only one was discovered after an explosion, down from nine hash oil lab explosions reported the year before.

Although there were fewer labs, officials emphasized their danger, calling them a “significant threat to public safety.”

**Pot seizure tallies**

**2013:** 89 arrests; 113 illegal marijuana operations; 120,084 plants; 30 hash oil labs

**2014:** 129 arrests; 103 marijuana operations; 131,818 plants; 54 hash oil labs

**2015:** 115 arrests; 98 marijuana operations; 88,213 plants; 34 hash oil labs

*Source: DEA*

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