



NAACP

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Anchorage, Alaska Branch – Kevin D. McGee, President

January 27, 2018

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
State of Alaska Legislature
1500 W. Benson Blvd
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Subject: Statement of Support
Senate Bill 128
Marijuana Education and Treatment Fund

Dear Senator Giessel,

The NAACP, Anchorage, Alaska Branch #1000 wishes to inform you and members of the Alaska State Legislature that we are in strong support of the above identified proposed legislation.

We agree with the concept and purpose of SB 128 that would establish a Marijuana Education and Treatment Fund in the State of Alaska.

We support the purpose of establishing this fund effort as outlined for the identified purposes:

- Create a community-based misuse prevention program
- Promote public education to discourage youth initiation to marijuana, educate about the effects of marijuana and inform the public on marijuana laws
- Survey/track population for knowledge, awareness, and attitudes re: marijuana use
- Monitor use and its effect on the health of the populace in general
- Create substance abuse screening, intervention, referral and treatment programs

We understand that the use of marijuana for personal use has become legal in the State of Alaska for adult Alaskans. But we strongly support the efforts in the proposed legislation to address the use by our Alaska youth. Currently, it is reported that more Alaska youth are smoking marijuana than tobacco cigarettes. We support the belief that prolonged usage can lead to potential abnormal brain development, addiction, mental health/cognitive disabilities, and use during pregnancy is a concern for a developing baby.

For the reasons stated, we ask that the Alaska Senate strongly support and pass this very important piece of good legislation.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. McGee

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