

# ALASKA LEGISLATURE

## House Finance Committee

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## Representative David Guttenberg

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### HJR 21: Feds Respect State Reg of Marijuana

HJR 21 urges the federal government to respect and not intervene in Alaska's current marijuana policy—doing so would be unnecessary federal overreach. President Trump stated on his campaign trail that legalization should be left to the states. Mr. Spicer recently said that despite President Trump's support of medical marijuana “there is a big difference between that and recreational marijuana” and he believed the public would see “greater enforcement” of federal marijuana laws.

There should not be a difference between recognizing state-implemented medical marijuana laws and recognizing state-implemented recreational marijuana laws. Both laws were implemented in accordance with the will of our citizens, established robust regulatory structures prioritizing public health and safety, reduced unnecessary incarceration, and expanded our economies.

Overhauling the Cole Memo and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network will produce harmful unintended social and economic consequences. Hurting the regulated market moves existing marijuana activity to the black market. This will increase dangerous activity in our state and get rid of a source of tax revenue. It also diverts the Department of Justice's resources away from its current marijuana enforcement priorities of preventing distribution to minors, criminal enterprises, diversion of marijuana from states to where it is legal to states where it is not.

It is not in Alaska's, the federal government's or the people's best interest to interfere with current state regulations on marijuana which is why I ask you to join me in supporting the preservation of Alaska's current marijuana policy.