
From: Susan A <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 10:36 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 119

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 119, titled “Marijuana Tax.” While I recognize the importance of revenue generation and regulation, I believe this bill has significant implications that warrant reconsideration.

Reasons for Opposition:

Burden on Consumers: HB 119 may impose additional financial burdens on marijuana consumers. High taxes could discourage legal purchases and inadvertently drive consumers toward the black market.

Impact on Small Businesses: Marijuana dispensaries and related businesses already face significant regulatory challenges. Excessive taxation may hinder their growth and viability, affecting local economies.

Equity and Social Justice: We must consider the impact of taxation on marginalized communities disproportionately affected by marijuana-related convictions. Ensuring fair taxation is essential for social justice.

Appeal:

I urge you to engage with stakeholders, including industry representatives, community leaders, and consumers, to refine HB 119. Let us create legislation that balances revenue needs with fairness, economic growth, and public health.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will consider the diverse perspectives on marijuana taxation as we move forward.

Susan Allmeroth

Two Rivers

From: Jen Griffis <jgriffis@alaskachildrenstrust.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 2:09 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Trevor Storrs
Subject: MET fund information
Attachments: MET Fund.pdf

House Finance Committee members,

During previous hearings on HB119: Marijuana Tax, legislators asked questions about the programs supported by marijuana tax funds. The attached brief is intended to provide legislators with information about the Marijuana Education Treatment (MET) Fund, a fund which receives marijuana tax revenue.

Please note that Alaska Children's Trust is NOT taking a position on HB119: Marijuana Tax, but simply providing committee members information in response to previous questions asked in legislative hearings.



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Together we can prevent
child abuse and neglect



MARIJUANA EDUCATION TREATMENT FUND (MET FUND)



MARIJUANA EDUCATION TREATMENT (MET) FUND

The MET Fund was established in 2018 with bipartisan and industry support. Like programs focused on alcohol misuse, the fund supports prevention strategies such as community-based positive youth development and public education campaigns, and delivers direct treatment and public health monitoring for marijuana misuse.

25% of the revenue from the marijuana excise tax is deposited into the MET Fund.
per AS 43.61.010

Funds are administered by the Alaska Department of Health for comprehensive marijuana use education and treatment programs, including:

substance misuse prevention through youth service programs

public education on marijuana effects and laws

development and implementation of misuse training

substance abuse screening and intervention

monitoring public health related to marijuana

public surveys on knowledge, awareness, and attitude toward marijuana products

Preventing or delaying the first use of marijuana among underage youth is an important component of a comprehensive public health response to substance misuse. Programs administered through the MET Fund increase Alaskan youths' access to prevention focused activities, resulting in a decreased risk for substance misuse related to marijuana.

Youth service programs designed for marijuana misuse prevention are formally known as the Positive Youth Development Afterschool Program (PYDAP) Grant.

39 afterschool programs are current grantees of this program and are actively administering prevention strategies statewide.



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