

From: Teresa Barnes <tcarnes2@alaska.edu>

Date: March 30, 2018 at 4:10:49 PM AKDT

To: sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov

Subject: Support for SB 128

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel:

I am a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage and I am writing in support of SB 128 and the public education efforts it will bring about for Alaskans.

I moved to Alaska this past year from Washington State. In Washington State, where marijuana was legalized in 2012, a portion of the revenue created from the sale of marijuana is reserved for a marijuana education and public health program as directed in state code RCW 69.50.540. Living in a state that dedicated itself to providing a revenue source for programs intended to educate the public about the health risks associated with marijuana made me proud. I am happy to learn that my new home, Alaska, is working towards similar goals.

When marijuana was legalized in Alaska in 2014, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) took immediate action to promote public education, including educational materials made available online and a public service announcement that aired in 2015. Since then they have updated their public education materials and created a new public service announcement focused more on the health risks associated with marijuana. These materials can all be accessed on the portion of their website dedicated solely to marijuana education (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/marijuana/default.aspx>).

The efforts that have been made to promote public education in Alaska about the health risks of marijuana are commendable and the passing of this legislation will allow for the continuance of these works. Passing SB 128 and creating a dedicated funding source for public education about marijuana will ensure that the Alaska DHSS can continue to keep Alaskans safe and informed about the risks of marijuana.

I appreciate you taking the time to read through this email. I want to thank you for putting forward this legislation that will help to inform Alaskans about the potential health risks marijuana poses.

Sincerely,
Teresa Barnes
MSW Student