

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the effort here in Alaska to regulate marijuana like alcohol. I believe that marijuana is a relatively benign substance, especially compared to alcohol. I believe that all the money and time spent arresting and incarcerating people regarding marijuana can be better spent really protecting and serving the people of Alaska in other ways. Yes, there will be some people who can't "handle" their marijuana just like there are people who can't "handle" their alcohol, but at the worst these people will be sleeping instead of indulging in road rage or violence in the home like drinkers do. I do believe that regulating marijuana and requiring an ID to purchase it, etc, will make it harder for young people to get access to it, which I also think is a good thing. Making marijuana legally accessible will also remove the unsavory elements that currently traffic in this substance from doing this business in our communities. Marijuana does not incite violent behavior and I do not see the more widespread use of this substance as a problem. In fact, if more people smoked marijuana instead of drinking alcohol we might see a decrease in the very serious violent and often tragic results of alcohol abuse.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Hollie Levine
Wrangell, AK