

Dear Senate and House Judiciary Committee Members

I understand there will be a hearing tomorrow in support of Ballot Measure 2, the issue concerning relation of marijuana in this state. I wanted to convey to you how important I feel this issue (regulation of marijuana) is to the citizens of the great State of Alaska. I'm a 71 year old , gray-haired grandma, a married female living in Wasilla. Having grown up in the 60's and 70's, I was aware of marijuana use then and now and I've never believed for one moment that it was a "gateway drug". It simply isn't. Marijuana is much less addictive and harmful than alcohol or tobacco to the body. Health related costs for alcohol or tobacco is likewise significantly less. This is substantiated by many polls in this country and the majority of Americans believe marijuana is safer than alcohol including me.

I have known many people over the years who have used marijuana occasionally or on a regular basis. I truly believe this substance does not cause users to be or do anything that they wouldn't be doing anyway. If they are lazy, worthless human beings, I think they would have been that type of person with OR without marijuana. I have known many other people who regularly use this who have always led full and productive lives. Use or non-use of marijuana isn't the determining factor in people's lives. It's just an excuse people who are against it use, regardless of it applying or not.

I am not a current user but as a senior citizen I fully intend to BE a regular user should I end up with some life-altering medical disease or condition that marijuana would help ease the symptoms. If not legal here, I certainly would consider a move to someplace where it WAS legal, it's as simple as that!

I feel it serves no useful purpose to treat users or growers as criminals unless they intentionally sell or provide their product to under-age people. I understand that in 2010, 81% of drug arrests were for people possessing marijuana. As with alcohol use in the state, legalize it and control it. And tax it if you must. We as a state have a lot more important things to concern ourselves with than criminalizing otherwise law-biding citizens.

Legalize marijuana and impose the same restrictions as there are on alcohol, and I believe there will be no significant impact on the way adults in the State of Alaska live their lives. I urge you to carefully consider this from this gray-haired granny in Wasilla.....please!!!

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