



COLORADO TOBACCO EDUCATION & PREVENTION ALLIANCE

A Case for State Owned Marijuana Operations

Support for a state run operation from Bob Doyle, Executive Director, Colorado Tobacco Education and Prevention Alliance (CTEPA). The basis for this recommendation:

- Legalization of marijuana would be the birth of the next tobacco industry. CTEPA did not support legalization and this recommendation should not be seen as an endorsement of legalization. However, we recognize the state has a mandated timeline and tasks.
- The important, and unfortunate, lessons we have learned from legalized drugs (tobacco and alcohol): The costs far exceed the revenue. Who pays? Taxpayers and businesses (increased healthcare costs/lost productivity), families/residents (addiction/death/disease/loss of income), healthcare system (treatment costs, ER visits, accidents), and communities, especially low income (increased use, costs)
- The state interest is in reducing drug use and abuse among adults and youth.
- The state interest is having a competitive, healthy and well educated, work force and to compete with other states for employers. Marijuana use negatively impacts the health and educational achievement of our work force.
- The interest of a marijuana industry is more use and more frequent use.
- The mandated timeline for Amendment 64 is reckless and insufficient to allow for detailed analysis of 64's impact and implications (costs, liability/legal, public health and safety, etc.).
- Marijuana use, sales, etc. is illegal here and in every state. The state legislature should focus on the most restrictive strategies to protect taxpayers, residents, businesses, communities, and our healthcare system.
- Colorado marijuana policies are already negatively impacting Colorado and surrounding states.

Request a legal analysis of state owned operations. The benefit:

- Puts operations in place focused on the state's interest , not the marijuana industry.
- Implements a regulatory model that science has shown to mitigate social costs AND provide greater revenue percentages to government (alcohol). (Hahn et al, 2012 Am Journal of Prev Medicine)
- Removes the incentive for increased use and can implement strategies to reduce use.
- Prevents the mass marketing and sales of marijuana in our state.
- Puts more revenue back to the state to minimize the tremendous state and local cost of 64 implementation, marijuana use, including prevention and treatment
- Helps prevent illegal activity like sales to minors and marijuana diversion to other states. Medical marijuana and marijuana products made in Colorado have been found in at least 20 states.
- Facilitates law enforcement and oversight with greater controls and having fewer marijuana operations. And reduces the cost of oversight.
- **Should there be a change in voter sentiment** or legal action requiring the need to reduce or stop marijuana sales and operations, it's easier for the state to comply.