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Leading the Conservative Movement since 1972

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Marijuana

Legalizing marijuana does not make the drug safer or add to a state's revenue. In fact, it does the opposite. States are spending resources to handle increased marijuana-related hospitalizations, traffic accidents, child poisonings, mental health and addiction services, and crime. For these reasons, Eagle Forum is opposed to rescheduling marijuana and loosening banking rules for the marijuana business. We urge lawmakers to:

OPPOSE: Marijuana Reclassification

The Trump administration is considering the reclassification of marijuana for medical purposes. Currently, the FDA has classified marijuana as a Schedule I drug along with heroin and LSD because of their high potential of abuse and dependence. In fact, marijuana has never been approved for any medical use by the FDA.

- Marijuana is highly addictive – rates of marijuana addiction have risen from 9% to 30% since states began legalizing its use
- Risks to young people are extremely high – one study shows that teens who are addicted have a 450% increased rate of behavioral and mental health problems
- Marijuana use increases risks of cancer, heart attack, stroke, psychosis, and schizophrenia
- If rescheduled:
 - pot dispensaries and drug dealers would get a massive tax break (\$2 billion annually) because sellers of Schedule III drugs can receive deductions for promoting or marketing
 - International drug cartels would also be able to qualify for tax breaks
 - The federal government would no longer be able to mandate marijuana-testing for pilots, truck drivers and other safety-sensitive positions

OPPOSE: SAFE or SAFER Banking Act

The SAFE (or sometimes called SAFER) Banking Act gives marijuana businesses access to the federal banking system. This legislation will allow state-legal cannabis businesses access to traditional financial services, reducing the risk for financial institutions, lenders, insurers, and others serving the industry despite marijuana being illegal on the federal level. Its passage will stimulate growth in the industry and allow Wall Street Investors to put profits above health.

SUPPORT: Miller Amendment on THC Harvesting Through Hemp

Representative Mary Miller (R-IL) has successfully inserted language in last year's Farm Bill and this year's Appropriations bill to prohibit the farming of hemp to harvest THC. We support this language.

We oppose language in the Senate Appropriations bill that will protect products using naturally occurring THC and only prohibit those made with synthetic THC. If this language passes, it would be the first step to federal legalization of marijuana.

Disturbing Marijuana Facts

- The average potency of THC has increased from 3.75% to 15.80% since 1995.
- In 1992, 17.5 million Americans used marijuana. In 2021 alone, that increased to 52.5 million Americans.
- In 2021, 29% of young adults ages 19-30 reported marijuana use in the past month and 11% reported daily use.
- Marijuana use disorder is found in 30% of users. This is increased seven-fold if used before the age of 18.
- Colorado has seen a 148% increase in marijuana-related hospitalizations since legalization. Similarly, California has seen an 89% increase.
- Colorado's poison control hotline has seen a 586% increase in marijuana-related incidences for children ages 0-5 years old. Washington has seen a 214.5% increase and Illinois has seen a 72% increase.
- From 2016-2019, 89.7% of Colorado drivers who were tested under suspicion of using THC were positive. 48.8% of teen drivers reported driving under the influence of cannabis.
- In Virginia, 60% of drivers reported use of marijuana while driving within the last three months.
- Despite legalization in California, 70-80% of marijuana sold in legal dispensaries were grown illegally.
- Revenue from marijuana taxes have only make up well below 1% of state budgets where legalized.
- State regulatory agencies have struggled to stay on top of licensing, labeling, and accountability. State audits have shown that many of the products being sold in legal dispensaries are more potent than their label suggests.

* Statistics gathered from Smart Approaches to Marijuana's (SAM) 2023-2024 Impact Report.

We are watching the dangers of marijuana unfold before our eyes. Federal legalization of the drug would be devastating for families. Eagle Forum has joined recent coalition letters and supported Congressional letters urging the Trump administration and Members of Congress not to reschedule marijuana or make marijuana more accessible.