

In 2016 I submitted the following comment in the Voter Guide Publicity Pamphlet. Four years later my comments are even more true, the issue full of more risk, and it is even more important that we VOTE NO to promoting marijuana use in Arizona as a “recreational” drug.

I am an Arizona parent whose child died by suicide following his addiction to marijuana, Cannabis Use Disorder. He left a note saying “My soul is already dead. Marijuana killed my soul + ruined my brain.” He was and is a beloved son, not a Zero as the marijuana lobby asserts with its myth that marijuana cannot lead to death. The substance is indeed very harmful and risky for many. Science affirms this. This initiative proposes an enormous burden on society with new government agencies to regulate and police yet another substance of impairment - for recreational use. The initiative includes wide distribution and lighter penalties than for alcohol. This is proposed during a mental health and drug abuse epidemic, when many are doing everything we can to curb substance abuse. This is proposed at a time when society would benefit from improvement in its education and attitudes toward harmful and risky substance use. This initiative normalizes drug use which leads to increased usage. Businesses always work to expand. More use = more risk = more addiction = more devastated families. I urge all to work to Protect and Prevent, not Promote drug use. Please VOTE NO.

**Sally Schindel, An Arizona Mom, Prescott**

In 2010, the marijuana industry told us they had a powerful drug that would heal people. And 50.3% of the voters agreed. In 2016, the same people told us pot is harmless and that it should be legal for recreational use. The people of Arizona said No. Now they are back. Arizona must say No again. This dangerous and flawed 2020 initiative gives a monopoly to Big Marijuana companies, allows them to create powerful edibles resembling popular candy and snacks, increases emergency room visits and infants born with marijuana in their systems, it endangers our roads with impaired drivers, and changes the brains of our developing youth. This isn't speculation—these things are happening in the states that have legalized. In Colorado, users are admitting to driving stoned EVERY DAY, in California the black market is stronger and bigger than the legal market, in Colorado for every tax dollar raised, four more are spent on marijuana related expenses, and in Washington, over half the pot money promised for drug prevention, education & treatment never materialized. Let's learn from those who have experimented with recreational marijuana: “You do not legalize for taxation. It is a myth. You are not going to pave streets. You are not going to be able to pay teachers. The big red herring is the whole thing that the tax revenue will solve a bunch of crises. But it won't.”- Andrew Freedman, former pot czar for Colorado. As the mom of four kids (one a Title 1 school teacher), the sister of an addict and the daughter of a medical marijuana candidate who lost his life to cancer, I ask you to consider the consequences of recreational legalization and I ask you to vote NO because once it's done, it can't be undone. Please keep marijuana medical.

**Lisa James, Chairman, Arizonans for Health and Public Safety, Scottsdale**

This Initiative will result in major increases in death and injury from marijuana DUI crashes. This is demonstrated vividly by the facts from Colorado and Washington, which have legal

recreational marijuana. In Colorado marijuana related traffic deaths increased 109% since marijuana was legalized - resulting in one person killed every three days from marijuana DUI drivers. In Washington, fatalities among drivers using marijuana have more than doubled since legalization.

This Initiative does not create a “ safe and smart” Arizona. Marijuana affects cognitive functions, impairing drivers through distortion of time and distance, loss of coordination, increased reaction times and inability to maintain lateral travel. Also, people do not switch from alcohol to marijuana because proponents erroneously claim it to be safer. In Colorado, alcohol related driving deaths remained relatively constant while marijuana related driving deaths rose 109%.

Arizona driving statistics show that marijuana and alcohol are commonly found together in impaired drivers. This is particularly disturbing because this pairing results in driving impairment greater than the sum of each individually. Marijuana legal states are selling alcohol infused with marijuana and this Initiative allows the same.

The Initiative protects marijuana impaired drivers from prosecution. The Initiative expressly prohibits the State from prosecuting marijuana impaired drivers based on a level such as Arizona’s .08 blood alcohol. Science will develop a level for marijuana at which all people are impaired, but no level can be enacted into law because of this Initiative.

Statistics indicate about 10% of Arizona’s population regularly uses marijuana. Yet, that 10% wants to pass an Initiative that will have terrible impacts for all the citizens of Arizona, causing huge increases in DUI crashes and deaths. This Initiative does not regulate marijuana in a “smart and safe” manner, but instead, protects stoned drivers and badly undermines highway safety.

**Todd Griffith, Forensic Scientist and Retired Director of the Dept. of Public Safety, Statewide, Crime Laboratory System, Phoenix**

Our society is rife with youth challenges based on legal substance abuse, from tobacco to alcohol. It is important to note, those products are only legal for adult purchases. Now we are told, let’s throw marijuana into the menu of legal and dangerous substances for Arizonans, after all, it’s just for adults. Meanwhile, in states that have tried this experiment, like Colorado, you see nearly 50 percent more youth using marijuana on a regular basis than in Arizona. In the young adult category of use between the ages of 18-25 (note, three years of illegal use by the way), Colorado use trumps Arizona by nearly 60 percent. We can become like that, and see our youth use of marijuana skyrocket—but why would we want to do that? So that a handful of marijuana dealers can get wealthier? No thank you.

Study after study shows that youth marijuana use is associated with cognitive impairment and increased risk of schizophrenia, among a great many other harms. We don’t need to do this here, and we can’t afford to do this here. Just consider: though we are told we will reap benefits from taxing marijuana, those benefits will be far smaller than the costs of everything associated with educational deficits, dropouts, traffic and workplace accidents, treatment, and recovery increased marijuana use will bring. And the tax revenue from other states that have tried this is minuscule.

What a sane society can do is say let's not add one more dangerous substance to the menu of problems our youth now face. And make no mistake about it: legalization, for any age group, is the handmaiden of adolescent use.

**Seth Leibsohn, Chairman, notMYkid, Phoenix**

What is more important than keeping our children focused on their education and keeping them safe?

This is precisely what passing this “Smart and Safe” initiative WILL NOT DO if the voters of Arizona pass this mindless measure in November. It’s neither smart, nor safe.

For those of you who think, Well, we already have medical marijuana - that’s not this. This initiative is to expand the usage of marijuana that is 4-5 times the strength it was in the 1970s and 1980s, and much of the product that is ingested today has up to 100% THC, the hallucinogenic in marijuana.

Here are just two major problems and their effects.

Already, calls to the Maricopa County Poison Control Center involving CHILDREN under 10 years old have increased TENFOLD from 2014 to 2018. We are clearly going in the wrong direction. Early use of high THC in pot increases mental health issues and poor school performance. Who is going pay for that?

Consistent surveys also show marijuana users believe that they are “excellent” drivers. Insurance claims increased in Washington and Colorado after they legalized recreational marijuana. In Colorado alone, a fatal crash involving a driver who’s high occurs every 2½ days.

Passing this bill is NOT a good idea. Get informed and vote accordingly. Because the children of Arizona and their parents are depending on you to do the right thing:  
VOTE NO ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA.

**Susan Cohen, Prescott**

It’s not easy being a teen these days. Temptations that can derail a future surround them, easier to get than ever. Saying no isn’t always easy.

That’s why we, leaders of Arizona’s substance abuse prevention coalitions, oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana. An increasing percentage of Arizona teens are already using marijuana. Making it more widely available will only put it in the hands of more young people – especially since this industry-written initiative limits penalties for teen possession to less than a slap on the wrist. Teens will hear Big Marijuana’s siren call: Go ahead and try it.

If you want to steal the future from a young Arizonan, hand them marijuana. Young people are most susceptible to the damage marijuana can do. Marijuana hinders the ability to reason, memorize and think things through, and the effect is worse in teen brains.

A recent study published by the National Academy of Sciences found that early use of marijuana primes the brain to enjoy cocaine. Another study in the Lancet last year showed that young people who use marijuana with a THC potency of a relatively low 10% are five times more likely to develop psychosis. Recent research by the University of Minnesota found that teens who use pot are increasingly turning away from leafy marijuana in favor of edibles and vapes, which have potencies far higher than 10%.

Our coalitions are dedicated to helping young people find ways to enjoy life without getting high. We want to help our teens avoid landmines on their way to becoming successful adults. There already are too many. We don't need to add legalized recreational marijuana to the mix. Please stand up for kids and vote no.

**Merilee Fowler, Camp Verde; Kathy Grimes, Pima; Vicky Solomon, Taylor; Jamal Givens, Tucson; Amy Bass, Tucson; Larry Tracey, Buckeye; Donna Hauser, St. Johns; Shelly Mowrey, Scottsdale; Sonia Sanchez, Rico; Hilary Cummings, Tempe; Julie Craig, Winkelman; Randy Hartless, Parker; Bob Shogren, Casa Grande; and Ted Huntington, Chandler**

This Initiative is not “safe and smart” but is riddled with highly dangerous and deceptive provisions. Some of the most dangerous provisions are shown below but there are many others.

The Initiative does not keep marijuana from adolescent use. Although the Initiative makes marijuana illegal for those under 21 years of age, it does virtually nothing to stop underage use. The penalties for underage marijuana are minimal (civil fines or petty offenses), much less than underage alcohol use which is a criminal offense. Also, the Initiative bars Officers from using the odor of marijuana or marijuana smoke to take action, making underage enforcement extremely difficult. The Initiative's message to Arizona's youth, is that it's okay to use marijuana because nothing bad will happen as compared to underage alcohol use which could result in jail time.

The Initiative's one ounce limit for marijuana does not result in 60 to 200 cigarettes of green leafy marijuana, as the general populace expects, but instead is 2,830 doses of 99% pure THC, a potent drug. This is because the Initiative defines marijuana not only as the green leafy material but, also, as any compound of the marijuana resin and, therefore, THC, the psychoactive compound in the resin, is legally marijuana. Other marijuana legal states, are selling marijuana preparations with 85%to 99% THC and the same will happen here.

Other Initiative wording further destroys the one ounce limit, because hidden in the act are provisions that make up to 200 ounces of marijuana legal. The Initiative allows the growing of 12 marijuana plants per residence and legalizes the marijuana harvested from the plants. 12 legal marijuana plants could yield, in one grow, 168 to 204 ounces of legal, leafy marijuana plant material.

Don't be deceived by this flawed Initiative.

**Todd Griffith, Forensic Scientist and Retired Director of the Arizona Dept. of Public Safety  
Statewide Crime Laboratory System, Phoenix**

As a mother, grandmother and the director of a substance abuse coalition, I urge you to vote no on the initiative to legalize recreational marijuana.

Preventing youth use of marijuana is complicated. It's not made easier when Big Marijuana pushes false messages at our children, glorifying this mind-altering, harmful drug. For every negative message our children see about marijuana on social media, they see 15 positive messages, each one of them false and misleading.

What is Big Marijuana's goal? It is to make Big Money on the backs of our children. These megacorporations market to our kids with the goal of increasing dependence on their harmful product. This initiative expands their monopoly, lining the pockets of individuals and businesses profiting from addiction.

Arizona has a choice to make on Nov. 3. Before you vote I urge you to ask yourselves the following questions:

1. Do you want your children or grandchildren to use marijuana?
2. Will your neighborhood be better with marijuana growing next door?
3. Will you be safer driving on Arizona's roads with more impaired drivers?
4. Do you support Big Marijuana's goal of a marijuana monopoly in Arizona?
5. Will Arizona be a better state with more adults and children using high-potency, mind-altering marijuana?

The answer to these questions and the answer to this initiative is "NO."

**Merilee Fowler, Executive Director, MATFORCE and Community Counts, Camp Verde**

The proponents of this initiative claim there is a safe and smart way to legalize recreational marijuana. That's nothing but spin, as shown by the failed experiments in every other state to try. Legalization means more users and more negative consequences. And we will pay the price.

Marijuana increases the danger to you on roads and workplaces. Colorado sees someone die every 2½ days in a marijuana-related traffic collision. In Arizona, positive marijuana workplace tests have nearly tripled over the past eight years since legalization of medical marijuana. Workplaces with higher rates of drug use have employees that are less productive, suffer higher absenteeism, and have more accidents.

Teen marijuana use is highest in states that have legalized it. Marijuana impairs learning skills. Teen use is linked to lower academic achievement and more problems with friends and family.

More spin: The initiative's writers agreed not to sell marijuana in the shapes of animals and cartoons. They said nothing about candies, gummies, ice-cream or vapes, shatter and wax, the high potency marijuana concentrates favored by the industry that are associated with higher likelihood of psychosis.

The complex formula for doling out the big tax bonanza they promise is also spin. In no other state have marijuana taxes covered the increased costs of social services, addiction treatment, homelessness, education, health care and law enforcement that legalization brought.

And as for their argument that legalizing recreational pot will empty our prisons? Not a single state has seen a reduction in prison population because of legalization. This is because, contrary to the myth, our prisons are not filled with people serving time for marijuana possession. As of April 2020, only 0.3 percent of Arizona's prison population are in for marijuana possession only.

Please join me in voting no on this terrible idea.

**Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney, Prescott**

One effect that legalization of marijuana may have is an increase in adolescent use because of increased availability and greater social acceptance. Adolescent use can: impact brain development, cognition, school performance, development of a marijuana use disorder, driving abilities and the development of psychotic illnesses.

The Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) assesses the prevalence and frequency of youth substance abuse and other risky behaviors from a representative sample of 8th, 10th, 12th graders. Some results related to adolescent marijuana use from the 2018 AYS\*:

- Top three reasons youth use drugs: 1) Have fun, 2) Get high or feel good, and 3) Deal with stress at school.
- Marijuana is the 3rd most commonly used substance after alcohol and tobacco.
- 15.7 percent reported using marijuana in the past 30 days.
- 15.3 percent reported having ridden in a vehicle driven by someone who had been using marijuana.
- 4.4 percent reported having driven a vehicle when they had been using marijuana.
- 44% of 12th graders reported having used marijuana one or more times in their lifetime.
- 32.7% of 12th graders reported having used marijuana concentrates (higher THC content) at least once in their lifetime.
- 23.2% of 12th graders used marijuana in the last 30 days.
- 17.8% of 12th graders smoked or vaped concentrates.

\*

[https://azcjc.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/AYSReports/2018/2018\\_Arizona\\_Youth\\_Survey\\_State\\_Report.pdf](https://azcjc.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/AYSReports/2018/2018_Arizona_Youth_Survey_State_Report.pdf)

Legalizing marijuana will put more stoned drivers onto Arizona's roads resulting in more

accidents and deaths. That's not safe!

The greedy marijuana lobby is willing to harm our kids and risk our safety to make millions in profit. While legalization of marijuana use may sound good in theory, it's dangerous from a health standpoint to our youth, our communities, and our state. That's why I'm voting AGAINST legalizing marijuana for recreational use. PROTECT ARIZONA'S YOUTH! Please, join me in voting NO!

**John Schuderer, MA, Retired Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counselor, Prescott**

It's natural for us to desire to be safe and in good health. This desire applies not only to us personally, but also to our family, and especially our children. As a parent, providing a safe environment and preserving the health of my children is my responsibility and a moral obligation. As a Family Medicine physician for over 30 years, it has been my responsibility and obligation to protect the health of my patients and provide them with advice on how to prevent accidents, injuries, and illness, and maintain good health.

In recent years, we have heard and read about the "opioid crisis," and the toll it takes on those who are addicted, their families, their friends, and on society in general. It is a terrible problem, often ending with terrible consequences. Addiction is a horrible condition, whether it be to opioids, alcohol, or other agents. Addiction takes control over the individual and becomes more important than family, friends, or health. It is a clear and present threat to our safety and health, especially the safety and health of our children and our teens. Marijuana is an addictive drug, with THC as the addictive component. In the 1960's, the percentage of THC in marijuana was around 3%. Now, that percentage is often as high as 60% and even more in some concentrated forms. The higher the percentage of THC, the higher the risk of addiction. Marijuana is commonly marketed in edible form, with names and packaging clearly targeted to children. There is proof that the younger one is exposed to an addictive substance, the higher the risk of developing addiction and all its consequences.

Protect us, protect our children, protect our teens. Vote NO and reject the Smart and Safe Arizona Act.

**Richard H. Rutkowski, MD, Fountain Hills**

Dr. Ed Gogek, Arizona Addiction Psychiatrist for 30 years, has treated more than 10,000 addicts and alcoholics in jails, prisons, homeless clinics, mental health centers and substance abuse programs. He has been quoted in the New York Times and over a dozen major U.S. newspapers. In his extraordinary book, Marijuana Debunked, he warns the following: "Teenagers get addicted to drugs-including alcohol, marijuana and tobacco-much more frequently than adults do because their brains are shaping themselves around their daily experiences and strengthening the synapses of activities they're engaged in. If a teenager is using drugs, the parts of the brain that enjoy getting high will be strengthened permanently. That's why teenagers get addicted so easily...this gives a new twist to the gateway drug debate. What matters is not the choice of drugs but the age at which it is first used. Any addictive drug used in adolescence will prime the brain for more drug abuse...marijuana does even more damage, as several studies have shown.

As adults, former teenage marijuana users have problems with executive function, the human ability to think, plan, solve problems, make decisions and set priorities...the research on heavy teenage use is overwhelmingly clear: heavy marijuana use in teenagers permanently alters the ability to think, remember and process". Arizona, if we legalize marijuana for recreational use, teens will get it and use it. Let's choose a drug-free childhood for our children. Vote NO on high potency recreational marijuana legalization; let's protect our Arizona kid's brains.

**Andrea Kadar, Sedona**

Arizonans need examine no further than Colorado, California, and Washington State when considering casting their vote on whether to approve marijuana "just for fun." So let's have a look.

In all three states homelessness is up, way up. Homeless providers in Denver agree the demand for their services has increased like no other time in history. The same goes for Seattle. Additionally, has anyone seen the news and documentaries about the homeless problem in San Francisco? This City is the most accepting population of the homeless and residents are fed up with the street filth, crime, and general despair of the homeless human condition.

In all three states, teen use of the drug is up. The teen brain is weird enough without making drugs more available to them. And the science is mounting that high concentrates of THC are causing major mental disorders in our youth. So let's make drugs more available?

And speaking of high concentrates of addictive substances, didn't we learn from the devastating opioid epidemic? The addictive mind-altering component of pain killers skyrocketed from 7.5mg to 80mg in powerful drugs like Oxycontin. THAT move fueled the fire that kills more people yearly than the entire Vietnam War. And now the marijuana "industry" has done the same. THC, the addictive mind-altering substance in marijuana, has risen from 5-10% to upwards of 80%.

...what is the industry really after? Your health—medical marijuana is already legal in Arizona—or your wallet?

Incidentally, recreational use has increased fatal car accidents in legalized states. But what does the marijuana industry call their initiative? "Smart and Safe"...seriously?

I urge you to take the time to educate yourselves. Examine the data and make an informed decision regarding legalization and vote NO on recreational use.

**Jeff Taylor, Phoenix**

Just a few months ago, we were all in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. The major concern was staying safe, staying healthy, and protecting our loved ones. During the outbreak, we gained much experience and considerable knowledge about how to best address the threat it posed to our health and safety. That experience and knowledge can be applied to any similar future

threats. Yes, we learn from past experience and should apply those lessons. Those lessons aren't just limited to outbreaks of infections but are applicable to other threats to our health and safety. Unfortunately, some lessons are learned the hard way.

The state of Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in late 2012. Now, data from the Colorado Department of Transportation shows that 69% of marijuana users in CO admit to driving under the influence of the drug. Almost one-third of users admitted to daily use. Data also shows that from 2002 to 2014, prior to legalization, traffic-related fatalities dropped 34%, despite an increase in the state's population. Since recreational marijuana was legalized in CO, marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 151 percent while, in comparison, all Colorado traffic deaths increased 35 percent. Yes, the marijuana-related death rate is over 4 times the overall death rate. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data confirms the problem, showing that the percentage of all traffic deaths that were marijuana-related has increased steadily from 14.76% in 2013 to 25% in 2017. This data shows one of the lessons being learned in CO. We can learn from CO without repeating its mistake. In AZ, we must keep our families, our children, drivers, bikers, and pedestrians safe. Vote NO to legalizing recreational marijuana in AZ.

### **Robert Lewandowski, Fountain Hills**

I'm a lifelong liberal Democrat, but after 35 years practicing psychiatry, much of it with children and teenagers, I'm against legalizing marijuana. And it's not just me. The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Academy of Pediatrics also staunchly oppose legalization. Why? Because just like Big Tobacco, a legal marijuana industry would target teenagers and children. Ninety percent of adult cigarette smokers started as teens and so did 90% of adult marijuana users. So all the profit in both industries depends on adolescent use. Big Tobacco used Joe Camel to get teenagers started. Big Marijuana is even worse. In Colorado, they entice kids with marijuana candies, cookies and soda. Denver pot stores aren't filled with green leafy weed; they're filled with THC-infused gummy bears, lollipops, and candy bars. As a result, states that legalized weed have the highest rates of teenage use in the country, and in those states the number of dogs and toddlers overdosing on pot has skyrocketed. This industry directly targets kids, even though hundreds of scientific studies show that marijuana – especially today's high-potency weed – permanently damages the teenage brain. Teens who smoke pot regularly drop out at twice the rate of non-users, and as adults they earn less and have lower IQ. No parent wants this for their kids. But does the marijuana industry care? No more than Big Tobacco cares about the cancer and heart disease it causes. For both industries, targeting teenagers is just part of doing business. Remember: this initiative wasn't written by hippies who want to get high; it was written by businessmen who want to make money getting your kids started on drugs. That's why doctors who work with children – pediatricians and child psychiatrists -- adamantly oppose this measure. As should we all.

### **Ed Gogek, M.D., Board-Certified Psychiatrist, Prescott**

I encourage you to make an informed choice. Read the ballot initiative, don't just listen to what the marijuana industry tells you it says. That's what I did and found major discrepancies between the message they're peddling, and the language in the initiative.

It's basically the same self-serving ballot initiative Arizonans rejected in 2016, with a deceptive name. There is no safe way to legalize recreational marijuana. Where recreational marijuana is legal, states saw a dramatic increases in marijuana related traffic deaths, teen use - which damages still developing brains, increased expenses due to the additional harms caused by legalization, and more.

The initiative doesn't keep people from going to work stoned, potentially putting coworkers at risk. And it's a headache for business owners.

The so-called "limits" on potency is deceptive, allowing for a high risk of over consumption by packing up to 10mg of THC in a single serving. Then, making a single serving size 1/10th of a cookie or candy bar, or a single gummy. No one eats a tenth of a cookie or one gummy. And the initiative limits only the edibles, leaving concentrates, waxes, joints and other forms unlimited in potency.

The state isn't going to reap a whirlwind of revenue. Not based on what happened in most states that legalized marijuana for recreational use. Proponents don't count the high cost of increased traffic crashes, law enforcement calls, hospitalizations, drug treatment programs, and more. This initiative caps the tax at 16%, regardless of the added cost to the state.

The initiative creates a monopoly for marijuana insiders at the expense of Arizonans. Big marijuana companies paid for 98% of the cost of getting on the ballot. This ballot measure is written by the marijuana industry, for the marijuana industry.

Cathi Herrod, Esq., Center for Arizona Policy

### **Cathi Herrod, President, Center for Arizona Policy, Phoenix**

This initiative is 17 pages of single-spaced deception. Not a single voter, not even the lawyers who drafted it, can fully understand what it will do. And when problems are found, the legislature will be denied the right to fix them.

The proponents of this reckless initiative promise a tax bonanza. Don't believe it. Instead, look at what happened in California, Massachusetts, and even Colorado.

California expected to raise \$1 billion in the first year. It took in less than a third of that.

Massachusetts raised less than half of the forecast. Whatever the proponents promise, take it with a huge grain of salt.

Even in Colorado, a rare state that met forecasts, revenue from marijuana accounts for less than 1 percent of the state budget. And a 2018 study determined that Coloradans pay \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of marijuana for every \$1 gained in taxes.

Expect the same in Arizona if this initiative should pass. Other than money for law enforcement (implicitly acknowledging that legalizing marijuana will not make us safer), the initiative creates no ongoing revenue streams for substance abuse programs, public health, victim assistance, poison control centers, child protection, or workers compensation – all areas likely to see an increased demand if marijuana is legalized.

So who will pay for these? You will.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, employees who test positive for marijuana have 55% more industrial accidents and 85% more injuries compared to those who test negative. Some businesses in Colorado have to recruit out-of-state to find workers for safety-sensitive positions. Legalization made it harder to do business in Colorado. It will do the same in Arizona. These are only some of the reasons I'm voting no. I hope you'll join me.

Steve Twist

### **Steve Twist, Scottsdale**

As responsible adults, it's our duty and moral obligation to protect children. This obligation can be fulfilled in several ways. For younger children, we hold their hands when crossing a street. We install fences around pools. We insist upon infant seats, booster seats, and seat belt/shoulder restraints in the car. It's standard practice for children to receive vaccines to prevent measles, polio, meningitis, influenza and other infectious diseases. Bike helmets protect children from serious head injuries. Cabinet locks prevent access to toxic chemicals in our homes. Safety dictates that the firearms and ammunition in the home are secured. Prescription bottles have "childproof" caps. The specific measures implemented to protect our children vary with age and circumstance, but certainly these measures extend into the teenage years and even beyond. After all, our "kids" are always our "kids."

The obligation to keep our children safe must also be applied to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, including marijuana. Consider some hard facts. The concentration of the psychoactive and addictive component of marijuana (THC) has increased from about 3% in the 1960's to as high as 70% or more today. Early use of high-THC marijuana has been proven to increase the likelihood of addiction, mental health disorders such as schizophrenia, and poor school performance. Problematic marijuana use is 25% higher among teens in states that have legalized the drug. The number of calls to Maricopa County Poison Control involving marijuana ingested by children under 10 years old increased tenfold from 2014 to 2018, and this is without legalization. Prohibiting sales of tobacco and alcohol to minors has not reliably restricted their access to them. It's common sense that marijuana legalization would also result in higher access to children and teens. Please protect our children. Vote NO on the "Smart and Safe Arizona Act."

### **Susan Schulman, Fountain Hills**

#### **ARIZONA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BISHOPS' STATEMENT OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA**

Consistent with our long-standing position, the Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference remain opposed to the current initiative to legalize the recreational use of marijuana in Arizona. While we are concerned for several reasons, our opposition is primarily rooted in the belief that making recreational marijuana legal is harmful to both children and families in Arizona.

Legalizing the recreational use of marijuana sends a message to children that drug use is socially

and morally acceptable. As people of faith, we must speak out against this effort and the damaging effects its passage would have on children and families.

We already know that problematic marijuana use is 25 percent higher among teens in states that legalized recreational marijuana. In Arizona, this is particularly alarming because the percentage of eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade students who say they use marijuana has already increased over the past four years as perceptions of risk have fallen.

Furthermore, the most recent child fatality report for the State of Arizona listed marijuana as a direct or contributing factor in almost as many child deaths as alcohol. The prior year, child deaths resulting from marijuana were even higher than alcohol.

For the reasons mentioned above, and others, it is anticipated that legalizing the recreational use of marijuana in Arizona will lead to more abuse by teens, increase child fatalities, and result in more societal costs. Accordingly, due to these detrimental effects, we strongly oppose this dangerous proposal.

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger  
Bishop of Tucson

Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix

Most Rev. James S. Wall  
Bishop of Gallup

Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares  
Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix

Most Rev. John S. Pazak  
Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

**Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburg, Bishop of Tucson, Arizona Catholic Conference, Phoenix; Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix, Arizona Catholic Conference, Phoenix; Most Rev. James S. Wall, Bishop of Gallup, Arizona Catholic Conference, Phoenix; Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares, Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix, Arizona Catholic Conference, Phoenix; and Most Rev. John S. Pazak, Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, Arizona Catholic Conference, Phoenix**

*Sponsored by Arizona Catholic Conference*

Sometimes it's hard to know who to trust. I rely on past experience and facts. Experience tells me I can't trust the tobacco industry. They said their product was safe and they weren't marketing to kids. They lied on both accounts and people suffered because of it. Now, many of those companies are investing in the marijuana industry, which is also telling us their product is safe for recreational use, and they're not marketing to kids. I've seen the THC laced caramels,

cookies, and gummies, and I've seen the stats on fatal marijuana related car crashes. I know better. So, I the read the initiative itself.

It turns out the marijuana industry is almost exclusively funding this initiative, the details of which fail to address some very real problems. It does nothing to keep stoned drivers off the road. It actually eliminates current law criminalizing driving with THC in one's system, and it offers nothing to prevent impaired driving.

As a mother of a daughter just a few years from driving, I don't want stoned drivers with their impaired judgment in the lane next to her. And there still is no reliable roadside test for THC like there is for alcohol.

A third of marijuana users in Colorado admit to driving stoned daily, and marijuana related traffic deaths there nearly doubled after legalization.

Arizonans already legalized medical marijuana to ease cancer related pain or seizures. We shouldn't then turn around and send the message to our youth that medicine can be used for recreational purposes.

Like big tobacco companies years ago, the marijuana industry clearly is more interested in making money than making sure their product doesn't cause harm to Arizonans. I want my family, and your family as safe as possible on the roads. This initiative doesn't do it.

### **Cindy Dahlgren, Scottsdale**

Don't be fooled. "Not my parents pot! "

The marijuana of the 70's is not the same today. The potency is much stronger with a high percentage of THC (hallucinogenic agent) and less CBD (Ratio of THC to CBD 80-1) compared to 20 years ago (Ratio of THC to CBD 14.1) and 12 times more potent than what it was in the 1970's.

With this higher potency, research is reporting an alarming increase in cases of psychotic episodes, schizophrenia, bi-polar, anxiety, depression, etc. among adolescents and young adults. The high THC is thought to trigger susceptible individuals who have the genetic vulnerability for these mental illnesses and advanced brain imaging now demonstrates damage to brain functioning.

Mental and medical issues are increasing in executive functioning- short term memory loss, motivation; coordination, depth perception- affecting driving; paranoia, social anxiety, emotional instability; medical issues- heart and lung damage, low testosterone, appetite irregularities, uncontrolled vomiting, testicular cancer.

Statistics demonstrate that 1 out of 6 fourteen-year-olds who begin marijuana use, will go on to daily use and addiction. In addition, addiction can occur for some individuals after the 3rd or 4th use.

As a neuro-school psychologist in a large high school and licensed Educational Psychologist & Marriage Family Therapist, I have witnessed personally the increasing rise in addiction and mental health problems in our adolescents.

What can we possibly gain by subjecting our youth and population to these kinds of health issues and compromised lifestyles? Don't be complacent about this issue and then find your own child affected by it. We owe it to our Arizona society to protect our younger generation.

Medical marijuana use is one thing -to alleviate pain, etc. but recreational marijuana just doesn't make sense. There is nothing smart or safe about this Act proposed.

Vote No!

**Mrs Jane E Holm Licensed MFT, LEP, Prescott**

This proposition isn't about decriminalizing marijuana. It's about creating a monopoly so a handful of rich people can get even richer. Three businesses paid most of the money for this initiative, and they wrote it to give themselves almost total control over marijuana sales in Arizona. Pot is no longer small businesses; it's a highly corporate \$15 billion industry with its own private equity firms, venture capitalists and lobbyists who buy politicians. In Canada, tobacco companies are buying up marijuana businesses, and they'll do that here if it's legalized nationally. But now there's a nationwide movement to stop corporate marijuana, and it's often led by pot-smokers. Willie Nelson, who has used marijuana all his adult life, is fighting against this corporate takeover. Legalization lost in Arizona four years ago because marijuana users fought against it. In Ohio, marijuana users opposed and defeated a legalization initiative because it was a corporate money-grab, just like Arizona's. And the Marijuana Policy Project's political director quit because, he said, the industry has taken over and will push drug use just like Big Tobacco does. Tobacco companies target teenagers because 90% of their profits come from daily users who started before age 18. Pot works the same way; in Colorado, nearly 90% of sales are to daily users who started in their teens. If there were no for-profit marijuana industry, we could have a reasonable discussion about how to decriminalize marijuana for adults without causing teenage use to skyrocket. But the industry will never allow that discussion because they want teenage use to skyrocket. They need it to skyrocket. Just like Big Tobacco, their profits depend on teenage use. So please, vote against this monopoly. Vote against this for-profit industry. And say NO to corporate marijuana in Arizona.

**Ed Gogek, M.D., Addiction Psychiatrist, Prescott**

Proposition XXX or what is known as the "Smart and Safe Arizona Act" is a great way to generate profits for the Big Marijuana industry, their people and the Mexican Cartels, but it is neither smart nor safe for the people of Arizona, their families or their children. This voter referendum written by the big Marijuana Lobby from outside of our state, seeks to fool Arizona voters into thinking that Marijuana is both safe and effective for us, here in Arizona. Marijuana has never been proven to be effective where benefits out way its harmful effects. We now have solid data over the past 50 years that show just how deadly Marijuana can be. Research now shows us a direct correlation between drug induced psychotic illness such as Schizophrenia and Bipolar depression. States like Washington and Colorado that have gone against federal law and declared marijuana legal have seen dramatic increases in deaths and related traffic accidents due to the effects of marijuana. Proposition XXX says it will restrict the sale to individuals over the age of 21. How can they say this is safe when twenty five percent of Arizona's youth already

obtain alcohol illegally? Marijuana is a gateway drug that leads to other addictions. Almost every individual diagnosed with a substance use disorder of any kind, report that they first began their addiction with either marijuana or alcohol, and did so at an average age of 13 years. Please follow your heart and common sense and do not allow the big money from outside to profit off the lives of Arizona's youth. Help preserve a healthy and safe environment for future generations of Arizonans. Please join me in voting no on proposition xxx.

**Paul Smith, Registered Pharmacist, Prescott**

The National Drug and Alcohol Screening Association opposes the "Smart and Safe Arizona" Initiative in the interest of protecting safe and drug free workplaces with particular concern for road and driving safety.

As the leading experts in drug and alcohol testing, device manufacturing, product testing and development, we assert that no test is available to determine that any user of cannabis products is safe to operate vehicles, manufacturing equipment or any other safety-sensitive function whether in the public or private sector.

Having seen sharp increases of adult marijuana use in states that have moved ahead with initiatives such as this, we recognize that vehicle crashes and fatalities have dramatically increased in those states as well, with no solutions in place for accurate safety standard implementation. It is vital for the voter to understand that scientifically based safety standards are a minimum of ten years away and not obtainable in the near future.

With this extreme risk to the public health and safety of Arizona residents on roadways, it should also be noted this same issue will have detrimental impact to the business community, whether via those operating commercial vehicles (not subject to USDOT rules), involved in heavy equipment operations, manufacturing, handling of hazardous materials, utilities operations, construction-related industries and any other job duty where the employee risks accident, injury or fatality while operating under-the-influence of a substance known to impede executive function.

Additionally, states that have passed such measures show increased difficulty in hiring and retaining employees willing to abide by safe and drug free workplace policies. Employers unable to enforce these policies show dramatic losses in productivity and revenue with sharp increases in employee turnover, accidents, injuries, absenteeism and the use of all other illicit drugs.

Any initiative promoting substance use is detrimental to safety, health and wellness.

**Mary McGuire, Executive Director, National Drug & Alcohol Screening Association, Phoenix**

I look forward to having students back in our classrooms this fall. Watching young minds soak up knowledge and build the foundation for a bright future is part of what makes my job so

fulfilling.

Unfortunately, young people, like the rest of us, will be besieged throughout the fall with messages claiming recreational marijuana can be legalized in a smart and safe way. It's just not true. If marijuana is made widely available, more teens will get it and use it – just as they do with alcohol, vaping and cigarettes. Already, after years of propaganda from the marijuana industry, surveys show that teens see little harm in regularly using marijuana.

The opposite is true. Marijuana is more dangerous to teens because regular use of today's high-potency pot will derail their future.

Ample research shows that THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, impairs short-term memory and the ability to form new memories – not exactly an attribute you want while studying science, math or literature. After smoking a joint, a teen's thinking abilities bounce back more slowly than an adult's. Regular use leads to a permanent decrease in learning capabilities, a shortened attention span and an impaired ability to effectively communicate.

A multinational study published in the Lancet found a fivefold increase in the odds of developing psychosis in regular users of marijuana with potencies over 10%, which is well below the average potency promoted by Arizona dispensaries. Other research has shown this danger increases the younger a person begins using pot.

For the students I am charged with educating, there is nothing to be gained by legalizing recreational marijuana and so much to be lost. Please vote no.

Dr. Paul Tighe  
Superintendent, Saddle Mountain United School District

**Dr. Paul Tighe, Superintendent, Saddle Mountain United School District, Litchfield Park**

With the rise in the number of states having legalized recreational marijuana, and the increased prevalence of marijuana use among pregnant women, it is critical to understand the impacts of marijuana legalization for recreational use on the most vulnerable, our nation's children. While there is research on marijuana use during the perinatal and postpartum periods, literature indicates that marijuana use during these periods can adversely affect a child's health in various ways including exposing the child to various teratogens. Today's marijuana is high in potency and the diversity in products available suggest that marijuana use today may be more detrimental to a child's health than research indicates. Researchers analyzed data from more than 7,000 women in the 2016 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System to assess whether marijuana use during the preconception, perinatal, and postnatal periods is higher in states that have legalized recreational marijuana use compared to states that have not. Women in the states with legalized recreational marijuana use had a statistically significant higher prevalence of marijuana use than women in states without legalized recreational marijuana use. During the preconception, perinatal, and postpartum periods, women in legalized states were two times more likely to use marijuana than women in non-legalized states. In a changing marijuana landscape, these findings

underscore the importance of not only assessing the impacts of marijuana legalization, including patterns of maternal marijuana use, but also the need to all educate women of reproductive age, including pregnant women and mothers, on the adverse health and societal impacts marijuana use has on their unborn children.

### **Dwight Kadar, Sedona**

Argument Against “Smart and Safe Arizona Act” If you vote yes, you will eventually know someone who suffers misery because of your actions. So, tell them you are sorry now. So, will those who use marijuana think they can drive safely? Yes. Will fatal accidents happen? Yes. Colorado, experiences 2.5 fatalities each week from marijuana impaired drivers after they allowed such a law. Then what about the accidents where the person lives but is disabled for life. Does the record show the resulting rates of injury and the loss of jobs for those who survived. No. Those numbers are unknown. Tell those you know who survived a car crash you are now sorry about your intended vote to approve this provision. Do you want to help the marijuana growers? That is where the money will go. That is who is promoting this proposition. Vote yes and make us rich they urge! Are the prisons full of people who use marijuana? NO! A lie! Population numbers show 0.5% have marijuana convictions. And they are in jail for serious reasons! Oh! Your yes vote will hire more police. That is a good thing right? How many new officers will be needed? 2,000 - 5,000 who knows? How long will that take to hire them? YEARS AND YEARS! Why are more officers needed? To get these impaired drivers off the streets! Who could become the impaired drivers? How about 18-wheelers in the lane next to you, or maybe even those professions for which we EXPECT absolute sobriety; doctors, nurses, pilots, fire fighters, police, those who govern etc. etc. Maybe even your children...

### **Philip Goehring, Citizen, Prescott**

Legalizing recreational marijuana in Arizona risks the health, safety and future of our children. It makes our streets more dangerous. I see nothing smart or safe about this.

Today, alcohol is the substance most abused by Arizona teens, with e-cigarettes close behind. These are legal to adults, making it very easy for teens to get. If recreational marijuana is legalized, kids will get it with the same ease, accelerating the increase in usage already under way. But the consequences will be far more grave.

Research shows that marijuana’s immediate effects include difficulty with thinking, memory and problem solving. It significantly hinders a teen’s ability to do well in school. The younger a person starts using pot, the more likely they are to develop marijuana use disorder. Young people who regularly use marijuana stronger than 10% THC, at the low end of what is sold today in Arizona dispensaries, are at a much greater risk than non-users for developing psychosis.

I’m not willing to sacrifice our children so the sponsors of this initiative can get rich. Nor am I willing to give up the progress we have made in reducing impaired driving. If recreational

marijuana is legalized, our streets and highways will become more dangerous. In public polls, marijuana users say they see nothing wrong with driving stoned and do so regularly. Perhaps they also know police have nothing like the breathalyzer for proving a stoned driver is impaired.

Colorado and Washington show us what will happen. In both states, fatal accidents involving marijuana have increased since legalization. In Colorado, someone dies in an accident involving a driver who tests positive for THC every 2½ days. In Pima County, Supervisor Ann Day was killed by a marijuana impaired driver.

Join me. Vote NO on recreational marijuana.

Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney

**Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney, Tucson**

Governments are looking for new or different ways to raise revenue. Many voters may be more agreeable to the ways of raising revenue which do not directly affect them or raise their own personal tax burden. In states which have legalized marijuana, at least part of the justification was the promise of new revenue for the government. This often included the promise of new funding for schools or mental health. Who would oppose more money for the kids? There have been projections of how much new revenue will be generated. However, according to an October 2019 article in Politico, the promise of a new "cash cow" has not been the reality.

Colorado and Washington were two of the earliest states to legalize recreational marijuana. California & Massachusetts have followed suit. As reported in the October 2019 Politico article, Advocates for legalization in California originally envisioned legalized pot raising \$1 billion a year. As it turns out, the state raised not even a third of that in fiscal 2018-2019, the first full year since recreational sales began. Massachusetts had projected it would bring in \$63 billion in revenue in its first year and did not even get half of that. Even if revenue projections are met, those projections do not take into account the cost of legalization, the unintended consequences. The number of marijuana-related traffic accidents and fatalities and the number of marijuana related emergency room visits have increased in Colorado, generating substantial costs. Beyond the financial cost of those increases are the human cost-which can not be assigned a dollar amount. Life Insurance will decline marijuana smokers who used it more than 4 times a week-that tells alot.

Beware of "get rich quick " schemes and promise of a " cash cow". VOTE NO on Smart and Safe Arizona Act."

**William Bovinette, Fountain Hills**

As a high school teacher and state senator, I can't think of a more important vote than NO on legalizing marijuana. If passed, the Orwellian named "Smart and Safe Act" will mean Arizonans are stuck with it no matter how many problems that arise including a thriving black market,

unsafe neighborhoods, addicted adolescents, more school dropouts, and an overwhelmed mental health system.

But don't take my word for it. Read the 17 pages of legalese where you'll find:

- The Act prohibits any new fees, which means the state of Arizona will be on the hook for any additional enforcement, addiction, treatment, and education costs leading to higher taxes and less money for education.
- The Act limits the state's ability to cap the potency of THC products that are smoked or inhaled, which can get to as high as 90% concentration leading to mental health issues.
- The Act allows for home grows and up to 12 plants in a single residence leading to unsafe neighborhoods.
- Finally, the Act protects marijuana-impaired drivers as it prohibits the prosecution of an impaired driver solely based on the amount of THC in his system leading to unsafe roads.

The Black Market is thriving in already legalized states like California and Colorado, and Arizona would be no different if the Act passes. Don't want marijuana grow houses next door? Then vote NO on Proposition \_\_\_\_\_.

State Senator Paul Boyer, Glendale

**Paul Boyer, State Senator, Arizona Senate, Phoenix**

Ben Cort, a former employee of the non-profit drug and alcohol treatment program at the University of Colorado Hospital, speaker on marijuana-related education and author of *Weed, Inc., The Truth About THC, The Pot Lobby and the Commercial Marijuana Industry*, says the following in his book, *Weed, Inc.*, "According to a recent study published in the prestigious journal, "The Lancet", more THC equals more psychosis and mental illness...while weed stores do sell a form of the actual cannabis plant, much of the commerce done is in the concentrates, edibles and THC that can be vaporized. In a few short years, we Coloradans have become world-renowned leaders of the extraction of highly potent THC from the plant, and its manufacture into an almost unimaginable amount of ways to consume that THC. The intersection of a mind-altering substance with American-style capitalism is a reality in Colorado, and one that has had predictably ugly results"...here is an example of an industry racing to innovate and making a product that is insanely strong with no regard for how safe it may or may not be." Arizona, let us NOT be "Colorado 2.0". Vote NO on high potency recreational marijuana legalization.

**Michael Schroeder, Concerned Citizen, Sedona**

Dear Arizona Voters,

I urge you to vote NO on the "Smart and Safe Arizona Act," the legalization of recreational and commercial marijuana (Petition Serial Number I-23-2020 ).

What a misleading "title"! Please read the petition and find for yourself that the proposal is not

smart and not safe. Why are there 17 pages of small print? Why are there so many protections and exemptions for the big companies pushing this initiative?

As an educator for 46 years, my focus has been and will remain on educating and advocating for Arizona's children. Most of our youth will have no direct voice in this decision, yet it will impact them for life.

"Yes" responses by young people to "Have you used marijuana within the last 30 days?" in the annual Arizona Youth Survey have increased 33% from 2016 to 2018. My hypothesis is the 2020 Arizona Youth Survey will reveal a considerably greater increase in that number.

Multi-national studies find a fivefold increase in psychosis among youth who used high-potency marijuana. The approval of this initiative would keep health officials from regulating the potency of most of the products sold.

In Colorado, traffic deaths involving a driver under the influence of marijuana happen every 2½ days.

With 11 states that have legalized pot reporting significant increases in failed employment screenings, Arizona employers in safety-sensitive industries will have to seek workers from out-of-state.

Please protect our young people and all Arizonans by voting NO for this initiative.

I, Tim Carter, certify, under penalty of perjury of the state of Arizona, that this is my true statement submitted to the Secretary of State for inclusion in the voter publicity pamphlet.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Carter  
Yavapai County School Superintendent  
Former President, Arizona State Board of Education

**Tim Carter, Yavapai County School Superintendent, Former President, Arizona State Board of Education, Prescott**

(268 words) Much of my life has been directed at working on behalf of children in an effort to see that they are provided everything they need to have a fighting chance to have a safe and successful life. My work has been through several organizations. First, I was on the Board of Directors of Yavapai County Big Brothers Big Sisters for thirteen years, serving as Board President for two terms. I have been a Big Brother to two Littles, both without fathers. I was also one of the Founders of Boys to Men of North Central Arizona and Board President from 2011 until 2019.

In both of these roles I worked with young men in their teens whose safety and future were compromised. I have witnessed first hand the temptations that many boys face regarding alcohol

and marijuana use. These temptations were too easy to give in to. I sat in a Boys to Men Circle at the Yavapai Juvenile Detention Center for several years, and have experienced the pain of boys who could not walk away from the offer of a joint, and after many occurrences of unacceptable behavior, ended up in detention. One of my Little Brothers was one of these boys.

I share this as evidence that I have seen first-hand the effects of marijuana use by young men, And now, this proposed legislation would make access to marijuana even easier.

I am certain the same goes for young women as well.

Please join me in voting NO on Ballot Measure 1-23-2020: The Smart and Safe Arizona Act.

Thank you for taking a stand.

**Travis Rushing Jr., Past President, Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Boys to Men of No. Central Az, Prescott**

As a concerned Arizona parent, I decided to research the implications and possible outcomes of full recreational marijuana legalization in our state. Here are just some of my startling findings: “THC, the (high potency) psychoactive part in marijuana products (that would be allowed in our AZ ballot initiative), can cause acute psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations, paranoia, delusional beliefs and feeling emotionally unresponsive during intoxication. These symptoms are worse with higher doses.” (Source: Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Study, RMHIDTA, Volume 6, September 2019). “Colorado THC-related traffic deaths are up 109%, THC-related E.R. visits up 54%, THC-related hospital visits up 101%, poison control exposures quadrupled. Marijuana seizures in the U.S. Postal Service (black market sales to other states) up more than 1,0425%. Colorado past month use for 12 years and older: 78% higher than the national average. Past month adult use is 96% higher than the national average, college age use is 48% higher than the national average. Opioid deaths up 33%, THC related suicides up 23%, drug cartels buying Denver homes for illegal ”home grows”, 7 out of 10 marijuana dispensaries recommend marijuana for morning sickness. (Source: RMHIDTA, 9/2018 and 9/2019). “The Colorado legalization of marijuana has damaged rather than helped. This is going to be a crisis with long-term consequences that will far outpace the opioid crisis, with lasting injuries, as well as significant costs to the public.” (Source: Cannabis expert and Emergency Physician, Dr. Karen Randall, Pueblo, Co., 9/2019). NO to high potency recreational marijuana legalization in Arizona.

**Leeanne Hayward, Peoria**

Fellow Voters,

The proposed “Smart and Safe Arizona Act” Initiative is neither smart nor safe! I was in the insurance industry for almost 40 years. Studies have provided evidence that legalizing marijuana for recreational use has increased the dangers of driving. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reported in 2018 that, on the basis of collision claims, the crash rates in Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington rose by as much as 6 percent since the first of those states legalized marijuana in 2012, compared with neighboring states that had not legalized it.

The study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety suggests the growing use and acceptance of marijuana increase the risks of driving, AAA officials said. “If a state were to legalize marijuana for recreational use, it’s reasonable to assume that THC-positive drivers will start to show up more in fatal crashes,” said Jacob Nelson, AAA director of traffic safety advocacy and research.

The AAA Foundation found that the percentage of Washington state drivers in fatal crashes who tested positive for THC increased from about 9 percent in the five-year period before legalization to about 18 percent in the five years afterward. About 1 in 5 drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2017 tested positive for THC, which stands for tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

It stands to reason, the use of any mind-altering substance like alcohol, or any drug including recreational marijuana, will modify the mind and drivers’ reasoning ability. This can only mean an increase in accidents and therefore insurance rates will increase. Arizona does not need this kind of “Not Smart and Not Safe” law. Please join me in voting against this initiative.

Roc Arnett  
Mesa, AZ

### **Roc Arnett, Mesa**

I love Arizona. I was born and raised here, and I’ve spent much of my life working to make our state the best it can be. As a mother, business owner, and member of the Arizona Board of Regents, I’m voting NO on the initiative to legalize recreational marijuana. It will harm our kids and limit our future potential. Arizonans believe in creating a strong education system for our kids. Studies show that in states that have legalized recreational marijuana, teen use increases. And when our teens use, they’ll be at risk for damage to brain development that results when marijuana use begins before the brain has fully developed – which doesn’t normally happen until age 25. Damages from adolescent marijuana use can include loss of IQ, decreased learning skills and attention spans, as well as other mental impairments. Plus there are the more significant mental health risks about which we are still learning. We need our kids at their best. Marijuana stunts their potential and puts them at greater risk for long-term dependence. That’s reason enough to oppose this initiative. There will be other negative impacts to Arizona. The initiative will weaken our current DUI law, put businesses at odds with federal law, create a monopoly for the marijuana dispensaries who wrote and funded the initiative, and prohibit our cities and towns from banning retail pot shops – just to name a few. This is bad policy for Arizona and dangerous for our kids. Let’s keep our future bright for Arizona and for our kids. Join me in voting NO.

### **Karrin Taylor Robson, Founder & President, Arizona Strategies, Phoenix**

We all know that once you sign a contract or other legal document, you are bound by the terms. After all, you signed it, so you must agree with it. When it comes to a referendum, the same concept applies. If you vote “Yes,” you agree to the terms of the referendum. The November ballot will include the so-called “Smart and Safe Arizona Act.” That’s a catchy title. If you didn’t

actually read the rest, you might be convinced that it was a good thing. After all, what's wrong with "smart" or "safe"? If you read it, all 17 pages, which you should, you'll find things that aren't "smart" or "safe."

The claim is that marijuana would only be legal for adults, not teens. BUT, there are no real penalties to keep teens from using it. The claim is that people would only be using the marijuana in their homes. BUT, there are no real penalties for smoking it in public. There would be only a "limited number" of licenses to sell it. BUT, isn't this just a way of saying that the licenses will be limited to the small number of companies trying to get this initiative approved? The claim is that legalization would allow adults to make the choice to use. BUT, do you think that the motive for legalization might have something to do with a profit motive? There is big money in marijuana. Remember the old saying, "Follow the money." Follow the money, big money! Legalization would allow sale of "wax" and "shatter," products which are manufactured for high potency (and highest risk of addiction). The initiative puts no limits on those products. The "Smart and Safe Arizona Act" is neither "smart" nor "safe." Please be smart and keep us all safe by voting NO.

### **Barbara Friedel, Fountain Hills**

As the state decides whether to increase substance abuse let's consider just a few ramifications. First, it's against Federal Law. That alone should end the discussion. Secondly, the drug will mean an increase of cartel operations in California and Mexico to produce more, less expensive, illegal product. Therefore more crime here and throughout the Southwest. Additional burglary to provide money for this drug is sure to follow. Thirdly, more intoxicated drivers will bring more traffic accidents and injured persons that will increase the price of everyone's automotive and health insurance. People will have to die because of more auto accidents and battered spouses. The increased use of this gateway drug increases crime, kills citizens, increases everyone's costs, breaks Federal Law and serves no purpose for the betterment of society.

### **Mr. Joe Larive, Prescott Valley**

We Arizonans love hiking, camping and fishing in our forests. Read the extremely disturbing comments on the unexpected environmental consequences of high potency recreational marijuana legalization in California by Dr. Mourad Gabriel, Ecologist, University of California, Davis: Dr. Gabriel said, "After recreational marijuana legalization in California, we Wildlife Ecologists and Pathologists at U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, saw a disturbing number of deceased, endangered "Fishers" brought into our labs. Necropsies revealed organ deterioration due to Fishers ingesting lethal amounts of rodenticides and carbofurans (illegal poisons banned from use in national forest). After investigations in our forests as to the cause of deaths of the Fishers, we Ecologists found illegal marijuana grows proliferating due to cartel/black market activity. This was AFTER legalization, not before. Here are some of the Ecological disasters resulting from these illegal grow sites: multiple animal deaths and destruction due to poison ingestion, 10 to 12 feet of trash left by cartels at forest grow sites, toxic levels of poison seepage into forest streams and watersheds, compromised hunter's game, illegal animal gall bladder harvesting by cartels, turf wars in forests between cartel members resulting

in gun fire and murder, marijuana plants sprayed with insecticides so dangerous that marijuana users would have been poisoned.” (Source: Dr. Mourad Gabriel, Executive Director, Integral Ecology Research Center, Researcher, B.S. in Wildlife Biology at Humboldt State University, M.S. in Wildlife Ecology at Humboldt, PhD in Comparative Pathology (with an emphasis in Wildlife Disease Ecology) at the University of California Davis School of Medicine. See “A Growing Problem on our Public Lands”, Tedx Talks, YouTube, Feb. 22, 2016, and “Dr. Mourad Gabriel Presentation”, WildLensInc., March 5 2015). Let’s NOT make Arizona make another California. NO to high potency recreational marijuana legalization in Arizona.

**Jon Denney, Sedona and Trisha Denney, Sedona**  
*Sponsored by Trisha Denney*

In a powerful documentary entitled “Chronic State” on VIMEO at drugfreeidaho.org, concerned professionals and parents from Idaho chronicled their trip to Colorado to interview physicians, law enforcement, addiction specialists, school personnel and other Colorado stakeholders on the unintended consequences of high potency recreational marijuana legalization and commercialization in Colorado.

Here are some of the comments from Colorado residents that you will hear in the film:  
 “Colorado kids tell us that marijuana is easier to get than alcohol. Legalizing has made more of our kid’s “users”.

Kids are using more, and the marijuana industry wants them to use because it is so profitable for the industry. They want out kids to be their new customers.

If you say yes to legalization, you are saying yes to more kids using. Kids are getting marijuana from “back door” shops in Colorado. We now have more pot stores in certain areas than Starbucks and McDonalds. The marijuana industry is in the business of selling addiction for profit. It is a multi-million-dollar industry and they are really good at marketing to kids.

Pot shop “Inspectors” leave government jobs and go to work for the marijuana industry as it is more lucrative. (“Regulation” + No Enforcement= Chaos).

More people are driving high in Colorado; people are vaping high potency THC-laden oils like “Honey”, “Wax”, “Shatter”, “Butter” in their cars. Do you want to be on the road with stoned drivers? How about stoned pilots, construction workers, teachers, food service workers or, your surgeon?” NO to high potency recreational marijuana legalization in Arizona. NO to kids using marijuana and NO to treacherous roads and workplaces.

**Barbara Quayle, Sedona and Ken Quayle, Sedona**

I moved to my Phoenix neighborhood in 2001. I know the houses, I know the stores and I love my area. I also live 10 houses away from a medical marijuana dispensary. Since it opened its doors, I’ve witnessed an increase in homeless people, experienced more crime and vandalism,

and a sharp rise of home invasions and robberies. The businesses and streets around the dispensary are now unsafe, unclean, littered with garbage and lined with vagrants. We found a homeless person sleeping in our shed in our back yard. We've been broken into often, our property vandalized, and items stolen. Many of us have invested in outdoor cameras and elaborate alarm systems. Prior to the dispensary opening, our neighborhood experienced a random act of crime, but they were rare. Since the dispensary opened 5 years ago, the neighborhood has more burglaries, vandalism, homeless vagrants, and public nuisance issues year over year. We used to have very quiet nights, now the police helicopter flies directly over our house nearly every night.

If medical dispensaries consistently invite homelessness, crime, violence and burglaries, how does voting in a recreational initiative improve this? How does making drugs more accessible help our community? We have paid an expensive price in our neighborhood so that people can purchase drugs and get stoned under the misguided definition of "medicine".

When I was a kid, my grandmother and I drove to Denver, CO every summer to shop at the 16th Street Mall. Some of my fondest memories was shopping that mall. Now, it's a run down, drug riddled ghetto. That memory has been shattered. Arizona doesn't need to turn into Colorado. We still have a chance to keep Arizona in good shape. No to the "Smart and Safe Arizona Act".

**Gina Kesler, Phoenix**

Marijuana is the most consumed illegal drug in the United States. Due to the current legalization push of marijuana in the United States, there has been a lack of oversight regarding its public health policies, as marijuana advocates downplay the drug's negative effects. When individuals suffering from pre-existing medical conditions use marijuana in an attempt to alleviate their symptoms, ultimately this worsens their conditions over time. Although marijuana effects depend on the individual's endocannabinoid receptors (which control behavioral functions, like aggression) and the potency level of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the drug, scientifically documented links between certain marijuana users and violence do exist. Wider public awareness of the risks and side effects of marijuana, as well as a more prudent health policy, and government agency monitoring of the drug's composition, creation, and distribution, are needed.

V O T E N O! ON HIGH POTENCY RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION.

**Bruce Bramblett, Sedona and Kat Bramblett, Sedona**

As a Colorado resident with family in Arizona, I strongly suggest that you vote NO on any ballot initiative to legalize and commercialize high potency marijuana in Arizona. Proponents will tell you that it is all about decriminalization, but the real truth is that it is all about big commercialization of new, very high potency products like concentrates and oils ("wax, shatter, honey oil") that are vaped. They can contain as much as 90% THC; that is a narcotic by some state's definitions. In other words, the big dispensaries who are driving this effort to legalize want your kids as their customers; they want huge profits to your detriment. If they didn't, why make high potency "edibles" in the shapes of cookies, candy, chocolate and soft drinks that

appeal to children? “Big Pot” does not care what kind of consequences come with this bill. Want to see another Big Tobacco 2.0.? Pass this ballot initiative and watch Big Pot Corporate move in and ruin your state. Legalization of recreational use sends a message to your kids that it is OK to use, your highways and work places will become more unsafe, recruiting and hiring new people, who are not high, for your businesses will be a problem and, your tourism industry will suffer as many of our tourists complain that Colorado “stinks like weed” and they will not come back. Why am I telling you this? Because I live in a place where all of this happened. NO! on recreational marijuana legalization in Arizona.

### **Steve Kadar, Littleton**

Reasonable people agree that we need to vote NO on the "Smart and Safe Arizona Act" which would legalize recreational marijuana. Eleven other states have legalized marijuana, and the data from these states shows that children are being harmed and communities are paying a high price because of legalization.

Children and youth are the most vulnerable when talking about legalization. The statistics show that in the states that have legalized marijuana, more teens get high from and more children are exposed to marijuana products in their homes. Problematic marijuana use is 25% higher among teens in states that legalized recreational marijuana. Use of marijuana in the developing brain negatively affects thought processes and growth. Early use of high potency pot increases the likelihood of substance use disorders, mental health issues and poor school performance. Because of the devastating effect that legalizing marijuana has on our children and the high cost to society, there is no amount of money (which is also questionable) in our tax coffers that would make legalization worth it.

Please join me in voting NO on this misleading and dangerous proposal which is neither smart or safe for our children.

### **Beth Coons, Mesa**

The Big Picture - we already have an opioid crisis. Why would we add to it? Recreational marijuana may sound good to some but I would ask my fellow citizens to look at the big picture. While I understand and can embrace medical use, I know this: across the board our insurance costs will go up due to those who abuse and drive impaired—and they will. You can already see the few Big Growers positioning, a “limited number of licenses”, for a cash cow opportunity. Furthermore, we, as citizens, will begin paying for the management programs to address the fall out from voting for a “legal right to use”. The proposed 16% excise tax will be spread out over five sectors, but this user tax will not fully fund the fall out. I vote and chose not to bring this into my home nor let it take money from my checking account. Please join me by opposing recreational Big Marijuana. I care about the future of Arizona citizens and take personal responsibility to look beyond myself. Together we can see the Big Picture; we are smarter than this.

### **Jodi Rooney, Former Town Councilmember, Prescott Valley**

As an Arizona Pediatrician in practice for over 30 years and as a father and grandfather I write in opposition to the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. The evidence from Colorado, Washington and other states' experience is now indisputable.

1. Children's use of marijuana skyrockets after it becomes legal for adults, not just because it's more available but because young people erroneously perceive that if adult voters approve it, then it must not be harmful.
2. The edible formulations of marijuana contain such high concentrations of THC that can cause serious medical problems in young children. These products are marketed as candy which dramatically increases the risk of accidental ingestion and is responsible for a marked increase in Emergency Room visits for kids.
3. The lower the age a youth starts using marijuana, the more likely they will become addicted, not graduate from high school, trigger psychiatric disorders, negatively transform the anatomy of the brain and actually lose up to 8 IQ points.
4. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), in an official policy statement reaffirmed its opposition to the legalization of marijuana "citing the potential harms to children and adolescents". The AAP represents over 62,000 pediatricians nationwide.

To protect Arizona's children I implore you to vote against this initiative. Our children's health and future life fulfillment are too important to waste on this experiment.

Dale W Guthrie MD FAAP  
Gilbert Pediatrics

**Dale Guthrie, Pediatrician, Gilbert Pediatrics, Gilbert**

If this initiative passes, your auto insurance will cost more. That's what happened in other states that legalized pot. Rates went up because there were more accidents. This is shocking because, since 1980, the number of car accidents in the United States has steadily declined everywhere. But now states that legalize marijuana are reversing that trend. The number of car wrecks is going down everywhere in the country except states that have legalized pot. In the first three years after legalization, collision claims increased 16% in Colorado. Other states that legalized after Colorado also saw increases in accidents, according to the insurance industry. Marijuana is also killing more people on our roads. In Washington, the number of fatal wrecks caused by drivers who were high on weed doubled in the first year after legalization. Other states that legalized pot also saw more fatal wrecks caused by stoned drivers. The problem is that stoned drivers react slowly. So if something changes suddenly, like a another car appears unexpectedly, they can't always react fast enough. Also, half of all pot-smokers think it's safe to drive stoned. Some even claim they drive better. They don't; research shows stoned drivers are twice as likely to have a serious or fatal accident. But there's no convincing them. I work with drug addicts, and a lot of them smoke pot and simply refuse to believe marijuana could harm anyone. In Colorado and Washington, half of all marijuana users admit they drive while high, and they think it's fine.

Arizona will be no different. If we legalize pot, more people will drive stoned, there will be more accidents, and the insurance companies will raise your rates just like they've done everywhere else that pot is legal.

**Gregson Gordon (Former Paramedic), Behavioral Health Technician, Decision Point Center, Prescott**

My name is Corinne Gasper and I am the proud of mom of Jennifer Corinne Hrobuchak. She was killed by a man driving high on medical marijuana July 24th, 2012. I have been grieving ever since but I have also been working to help prevent another such tragedy. Jennifer graduated top of her class with a degree in intelligence and analysis research. She did an internship in her senior year with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking of Ohio and decided then after receiving a award for outstanding contribution to the program, that she wanted to fight illicit drug use. This man that killed her was from another state that legalized medical marijuana but this man drove high also had other DUI's. Nothing stopped him from getting in his killing machine and mowing my daughter down as she made her way to work. She was killed instantly and he was uninjured. Her car was hit broadside and careened through the front of a building. Now our lives are empty and a beautiful woman who would have had an amazing positive effect on the world is gone. He spent a little over a year in jail and still holds that medical marijuana card. She had big plans and our family was so excited to see what wonderful things were in store for her. There is nothing good about this hallucinogenic drug. It causes so much pain to all that use and/or become addicted. It has been proven to be a gateway drug and has been connected to many suicides and violence. Our society will suffer more with legalization of a drug that has been normalized. Our youth think that it must be harmless if it's legal and will suffer from addiction and also some from mental illness. Please do not legalize this drug!

**Corinne Gasper, Galena**

Here are a few facts before I share with you my NUMBER ONE reason to vote AGAINST Proposition XXX, the Safe and Smart Act. Car insurance premiums will go up. Recreational Marijuana will make our roads more dangerous as surveys consistently find that regular marijuana users believe marijuana doesn't affect their driving and say they regularly drive while high. Car wreck claims and fatal crashes involving marijuana increased in Colorado and Washington after they legalized recreational marijuana. Fatal crashes involving a stoned driver occurs every 2½ days in Colorado. The majority of people who now enter drug treatment centers are addicted to marijuana.

My NUMBER ONE reason to vote AGAINST Prop XXX is Marijuana's negative impact on TEEN BRAIN DEVELOPMENT. During puberty, the brain is hardwiring itself for adulthood. Using marijuana during this time creates neuropathways that often lead to poor decision making and a pattern of questionable choices resulting in a lifetime of struggle. Problematic marijuana use is 25% higher among teens in states that legalized recreational marijuana. We also find that over 90% of people who are in treatment centers for Substance Use Disorder started using it as a teen. Scientific data is showing higher THC levels in today's marijuana is connected to higher rates of psychosis, mental illness, and violent behavior in daily users. I have seen the potency of

marijuana dramatically increase and witnessed its adverse effects in my work with youth and adults for over the past 30 years in the areas of education, addiction, treatment, recovery, and prevention.

I hope you are not one of those people fooled by the phycology behind the proposition name “smart and safe.” Big business knows most people will not read the 17 pages of small print that protects their interests. I’m voting NO. I hope you’ll join me.

### **Larry Tracey, Buckeye**

As an organization of 650 men and women dedicated to drug law enforcement in Arizona we have an insight not shared by the average person with regard to drug use. Both legal and illegal drug use is one of the most single issues that cause harm to our communities and State.

Legalization would make our jobs harder, not easier.

Let’s start with our youth. Already, teen usage is rising in Arizona as attitudes about marijuana relax. Legalization will make marijuana more available to kids. This initiative has little to do with smoked marijuana that most of us think of. The legalization will open the markets for the really powerful stuff they call “wax” and “shatter” that have been linked to psychosis. This isn’t the plant Baby Boomers smoked in their youth. This is a product manufactured for the greatest potency – to get people as high as possible, as quickly as possible. There’s a reason the industry-written initiative puts no limits on those products. It’s where the profit is. This initiative is all about Profit\$\$\$

Read the initiative. Ask why there are so many protections and carve outs for the "big marijuana companies" pushing this initiative. Ask who will pay in the long run.

The initiative’s drafters acknowledge that cannabis DUIs will increase. But they also ban using the presence of THC in a person’s system as evidence of impairment, instead requiring officers to use the vague standard of “impairment to the slightest degree.”

We have dedicated our careers to a safer Arizona, one in which lives are not destroyed by mind-altering drugs. If we thought legalizing recreational marijuana would keep AZ safe, we would support it. But we know it will do the opposite. Arizona would be less safe. Please join us in voting no.

### **Phil Hawk, Executive Director, Arizona Narcotic Officers Association, Phoenix**

As a mother of five children and a school counselor who has worked with teens for over 25 years, I’m voting NO on this dangerous initiative to legalize marijuana for recreational use in Arizona. Children are our future.

I’ve spent countless hours over the last 25 years talking to teenagers and helping them plan for their future. I’ve seen the increase in teens using marijuana, with often heartbreaking results. We

know from states like CO, WA, and CA that when recreational marijuana is legalized, even more teens will use it. And while the big marijuana corporations claim they only intend their products for adult use, they continue to package and market them to teens as gummies, sodas, candy, cookies, and vape pens.

Why is teen use a problem? Numerous studies have shown that when you start using marijuana before your brain has fully developed (which doesn't happen until age 25), it can permanently alter your brain function related to memory, decision-making, and attention span. You can suffer permanent IQ loss. Some people will become dependent long-term. When I see bright futures dimmed by the effects of adolescent marijuana use, it breaks my heart. So much wasted potential. I think we can all agree that marijuana should be less accessible to our kids. But this proposition and the greedy industry behind it intend to make it more accessible.

Arizona can do better for our kids. Let's protect our future by protecting theirs. Join me in voting NO.

### **Jane Mathews, Camp Verde**

This is a true story: good friends of mine got a call in December of 2018 from their son who lives in Denver. Their son, who is normally an upbeat, lucid and logical young man was rambling and complaining that "they" were out to "get him". He said that the "global stock market was going to crash due to bitcoin manipulation". The young man on the phone call was illogical, bordering on hysteria, paranoid, and threatening. Both concerned parents, 48 hours apart, flew to Denver because they knew something was deeply wrong. During the 24 hours after his disturbing phone call, paramedics presented to their son's workplace and were forced to put him in four-point restraints due to his hysteria; he had a psychotic break. He was admitted to a Denver psychiatric hospital and was forced to remain there as an inpatient for two full weeks. Why did this happen? He tried a high potency marijuana product called "wax" that is vaped. The product contained 90% THC similar to the products that the "Smart and Safe" Initiative will sell recreationally in Arizona if this Initiative passes. These products are dangerous. My friends described several teenagers in the hospital that were so damaged from high potency marijuana ingestion, they will never be released as normal adults. Arizona, let's NOT legalize products like this for recreational use. Keep our kids out of psychiatric hospitals, keep our roads safe, and do not compromise our workplaces by passing this dangerous Initiative.

### **Sylvia Allen, AZ Senator, Dist. 6, Snowflake**

Please vote NO on Proposition XXX

The yes campaign advertises "More than \$30 million annually will fund addiction prevention, substance treatment, teen suicide prevention, and mental health programs." (Smart & Safe Arizona Facebook June 1, 2020)

It is sad the industry promotes and sells a product proven to CAUSE addiction, REQUIRE very

difficult treatment for recovery from cannabis use disorder, INCREASE risk of suicides and CREATE mental illnesses requiring programs for treatment. There are numerous peer reviewed scientific articles about these issues.

There is NOTHING Smart or Safe about promoting use and increasing these risks with promises to pay for the prevention and treatment of the harms. There is a name for this. It is Addiction Economics. Create an addictive product that creates sales and jobs with the added “benefit” of creating the jobs to take care of the mess it creates – more addiction, more mental health problems, more deaths, more law enforcement issues, more regulations. Hurray for more jobs??? Be careful what you wish for...and what your vote for.

**Sally Schindel, Volunteer, Marijuana Victims Alliance, Prescott**

I have lived in two states that voted to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes. I am happy to say I no longer live in either one. Arizona has been a safe haven from the downsides of legalized marijuana, and I would be devastated to see the changes happen in our great state that I observed in the others after legalization. It brought a certain group of people into the state that had as a priority in their lives smoking pot and using drugs recreationally. Vehicle accidents and unusual driving increased in these states. The average person noticed the more erratic behavior of drivers on the road and commented that there must be more drinking and driving causing this trend. Then the statistics came out showing that actually people driving high on marijuana and other drugs were causing the increase. Statistics also show that car wreck insurance claims and fatal crashes involving marijuana increased in Colorado and Washington after they legalized recreational marijuana.

In those states where marijuana is legalized, children are introduced to marijuana at a younger age, and they grow up justifying that it will not affect them to a negative degree. Marijuana is much more easily accessible, so our children are introduced to the idea of taking drugs recreationally as an acceptable lifestyle. Statistics show that marijuana use is at least 25% higher with teens living in states that legalized recreational marijuana.

Medical marijuana is legal in Arizona. But when people start to look at medicine as a recreational item, change happens in individuals and society. Legalizing recreational marijuana will change our state forever. Keep Arizona safe. Please join me in voting no on this proposition.

**Dianne Schafer, Prescott**

Eleven states have now legalized marijuana, and not one example is successful. The legalization of marijuana across the country has brought many problems to some states. In Colorado for example, a report found that for every dollar Colorado earns from legal marijuana, the state spends over four times more to combat public health and safety issues. In 2018, California was expected to earn over a billion dollars in tax revenue from the sale of marijuana, and it barely earned a third of what was projected.

Not only are the fiscal projections and impacts worrisome, our roadways will become less safe. Since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, fatal traffic accidents involving stoned drivers have skyrocketed. Someone dies in an accident involving a stoned driver every 2.5 days. Car wreck insurance claims and fatal crashes involving marijuana increased in Colorado and Washington after they legalized recreational marijuana. We have made great strides in making our roadways safer by cracking down on impaired driving. We cannot rollback the gains we have made in driver safety.

Some also say that legalization is needed because of over incarceration. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. Of the 42,312 people in an Arizona prison at the end of fiscal year 2019, only 0.5 percent had been sentenced for marijuana possession. Nationally, fewer than 100 people were in a federal prison for marijuana possession in 2017.

We don't need this in Arizona. There is no upside to legalizing recreational marijuana. For those who need it for pain or to ease chemo-induced nausea, medical marijuana is legal. That won't change. But why would we want to allow recreational use when we know the harm it will do based on what has happened in other states.

I urge you to vote no.

**Debbie Lesko, Congresswoman, Peoria**

Children. Teen use.

What it does to teenagers is imitates the neurotransmitters responsible for teenage brain development. Adolescents who smoke pot have subtle but definite changes that show up on brain scans. The changes are permanent. Adults who smoke pot do worse on IQ tests, but if they quit getting high, their IQ returns to normal. This is not so for those who start as teenagers; no matter how long they stay off the pot, the IQ they've lost never comes back. Teens who use marijuana regularly do worse in school and drop out is twice the rate of non-users. They're also twice as likely to get addicted. We should do everything we can to prevent teenage use. If this initiative passes, Arizona will have a for-profit marijuana industry, and just like Big Tobacco, the pot industry will target teenagers heavily because that's where the money is. Nearly 90% of the money Colorado's marijuana stores bring in comes from daily around-the-clock users, and almost all of them started during adolescent years when the brain is more susceptible to addiction. The alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana industries all know this about addiction; that's why they all pitch their products to teenagers. The pot industry entices teens with marijuana cookies, candy, and vape pens that can be used in class. Teenagers love this stuff and the industry makes sure they get it. That's why the states with the highest rates of adolescent use – Colorado, Oregon, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Alaska – are all legalization states. If we legalize a for-profit marijuana industry, there will be no way to protect Arizona's teenagers from an onslaught of pitches and ads all targeting them. So to protect Arizona's children, please vote NO on this ballot measure.

**Mary Zuppardo, Executive Director, Decision Point Center, Prescott**

The marijuana industry claims no one has ever died from marijuana. Yet, at least 5 children are dead in Arizona because of marijuana impaired adults. Parents Opposed to Pot is monitoring news reports from around the U.S. and finds at least 225 child deaths related to adult marijuana use in 41 states. Of the five children dead in Arizona, two are dead because of violent acts against them, 2 were left in hot cars by forgetful adults under the influence, and one newborn due to marijuana, meth and cocaine exposure in utero. Yet, the death toll is even higher than our numbers show. The most recent Arizona Child Fatality Review for 2018, found that 32 child deaths were related to marijuana use, which accounts for 30% of the child deaths related to substance abuse. In 2017 the same report found that 46% of such cases had marijuana as one of the drugs that neglectful or violent adults were using, or a total of 62 child deaths. Since marijuana marketing seems to be targeted at the young adults in their child bearing years, we recommend a NO vote on this ballot measure.

Arizona Child Fatality Report can be found here: <https://www.azdhs.gov/>

PopPot Report on Child Deaths can be found here: <https://poppot.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/04162020-Child-dangers-fact-sheet-FINAL.pdf>

Parents Opposed to Pot  
POPPOT.org

### **Sally Schindel, Volunteer, Parents Opposed to Pot, Prescott**

Legal marijuana is not a tax bonanza for any state. It's a net loss. As Colorado's Governor Hickenlooper told CNN, "I tell other governors that we are not making any extra revenue from pot sales..." That's because every tax dollar Colorado brings in goes to cleaning up the problems marijuana causes; the money goes to drug treatment, to programs to prevent teenage use, or to homeless shelters used by marijuana "tourists." Not only is nothing left over, there are even more costs. Law enforcement costs go up because police have to enforce drugged driving and underage possession, which both increase. In Colorado, arrests for teenage marijuana possession have gone way up, especially for black and Latino kids. -- Any time you tax a product, someone will try to evade taxes, so black market sales are also a big problem in legalization states. In Colorado, the joke is that only tourists buy the highly taxed weed sold in stores. In California, pot stores were going broke because they couldn't compete with the black market, so they begged the legislature to waive all taxes and to arrest people selling marijuana illegally. Police now spend so much time and money chasing down black market sales it's like the 1970s again. -- Alcohol brings in tax dollars, but research shows states spend six times what they reap in taxes to clean up the mess alcohol causes. Marijuana is no different. A study found that for every dollar Colorado makes in marijuana taxes it spends \$4.50 to fix the problems pot causes. We work with drug addicts, and they are the world's best con artists. But please don't let the pot industry con Arizona. Legal pot is not a tax windfall. If this passes, it will cost Arizona money and drain our budget.

**Ellen Morse, APRN, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Green Valley and Ed Gogek, M.D., Board-certified in Addiction Medicine, Prescott**

Prop XXX is about addiction for profit. And it's addiction for profit at any cost. Prop XXX is an immediate threat to our kids. They want to hook your child so that they can keep them as a customer for life. Already in Arizona there is an incredibly high number of youth vaping THC concentrates like wax, shatter and budder. These products are manufactured for the greatest potency to get people as high as possible as quickly as possible. In fact, the makers of Juul first made a THC vape device called Pax. They knew it would be an easy switch for kids to go from vaping nicotine to THC. We can't trust the marijuana industry to put our kids and communities best interests over their profits. Big tobacco companies didn't and those pushing legal marijuana are using the same playbook. In fact, everything Juul is currently getting in trouble for (marketing to kids, getting kids hooked on flavors and selling the device as a safer alternative) Pax is doing right now.

Prop XXX is 17 pages. If the authors of the initiative were concerned about keeping these products out of the hands of youth, why does it leave out penalties to keep teens from using marijuana.

The stunning reality is that one third of Arizona high school seniors admits to vaping THC concentrates. More concerning is 1 out of 5 gets in a car with a driver that is stoned. All of this is happening and marijuana is illegal for them to use! Imagine if it's legalized. It will open a door that cannot be closed putting our kid's future and the safety of all those who drive on our roads in danger.

They want addiction for profit. Tell them NO loud and clear.

Vote No on Prop XXX

**Shelly Mowrey, Scottsdale**

Against Letter

Here are a few facts before I share with you my NUMBER ONE reason to vote AGAINST Proposition XXX, the Safe and Smart Act.

- Car insurance premiums will go up.
- Recreational Marijuana will make our roads more dangerous, as surveys consistently find that regular marijuana users believe marijuana does not affect their driving, and say they regularly drive while high.
- Car wreck claims and fatal crashes involving marijuana increased in Colorado and Washington after they legalized recreational marijuana.
- Fatal crashes involving a stoned driver occurs every 2 1/2 days in Colorado.
- The majority of people who now enter drug treatment centers are addicted to marijuana.

My NUMBER ONE reason to vote AGAINST Prop XXX is Marijuana's negative impact on TEEN BRAIN

DEVELOPMENT. During puberty, the brain is hardwiring itself for adulthood. Using marijuana during this

time creates neuropathways that often lead to poor decision making and a pattern of questionable choices resulting in a lifetime of struggle.

- Problematic marijuana use is 25% higher among teens in states

that legalized recreational marijuana.

- It has been found that over 90% of people who are in treatment centers for Substance Use Disorder started using it as a teen.
- Scientific data is showing higher THC levels in today's marijuana is connected to higher rates of psychosis, mental illness, and violent behavior in daily users, and the potency of marijuana is dramatically increasing year after year.

I hope you will not be fooled by the proposition name "smart and safe." This is a deceitful and very misleading name for a very serious discussion and vote. I am voting NO, and I hope for the sake of the State of Arizona, and its residents, you will vote NO as well.

### **George Hester, Owner, George Hester Insurance, Buckeye**

We are parents and grandparents and we are asking that you vote against the legalization of recreational marijuana. Your NO vote will not affect the use of medical marijuana. Studies show that in those States that have already legalized recreational marijuana, there has been an increase in deaths among children who have accidentally ingested a family member's recreational marijuana. Those States that have legalized recreational marijuana have seen an increase in disorders including mental health issues and poor school performances. There has also been an increase in vehicle accidents caused by people driving under the influence of recreational marijuana.

We all complain about impaired driving due to alcohol. Why do we want to compound the problem with recreational marijuana?

We need to ask the question as to why our politicians and the drug cartels want our children stoned? What kind of a future are we facing?

### **Linda Letzer Leeper, Prescott Valley and Patrick Leeper, Prescott Valley**

PLEASE VOTE NO ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA PROP \_\_\_\_\_

Today's marijuana is NOT the hippies 60's marijuana! Today it's manufactured for the greatest potency. In the 60's, THC, the main psychotic ingredient in marijuana, was between 4-10%, now it's around 30%. This ingredient is a cause of: psychosis in regular users and a cause of: mental illness, homelessness, schizophrenia, cognitive impairment and even irreversible brain damage (retards learning) to our youth. Over the last 20yrs., a minimum of 8 states have legalized recreational marijuana. We now have Psychiatrists & Epidemiologists who have turned speculation about marijuana's dangers into science. Over the same period, a shrewd & expensive lobbying campaign has pushed public attitudes the other way. The effects are now becoming apparent. Almost everything advocate, well paid lobbyists and the media have told us for a generation is wrong. In reality the health effects of marijuana, have shown to work ONLY in a few narrow conditions. A 4 yr study in Australia of patients w/chronic pain showed over time, cannabis use was actually associated with greater pain. Data confirms that legalization serves as a forerunner to more drug usage. A January 2018 paper in the American Journal of Psychiatry showed that people who used cannabis were almost 3x's more likely to use opiates 3 yrs later. States where it's been legalized, spend more on police, hospitals, crimes, homelessness, and

marijuana related traffic accidents. Much more than they receive in taxes from the sale of the product. THC is found in Vapes, candies, cookies and other carriers that are attractive to our youth. Decriminalizing and making it legal also removes the perception that there is anything wrong with using marijuana. This is not something we want in our wonderful state of Arizona.

**Connie Martin, Prescott**

Arizona already has medical marijuana in accordance with the claims that it does have medical use. Epidiolex is one prescription drug that has been studied and shown helpful in a small number of cases for children with seizures. However, when has it ever worked to make medicine (drugs used for physical and psychiatric treatment) available to the public as something for recreational and social use? I think we have found the dangers of this with cough syrup, Xanax, Aderall, as well as the current opioid crisis our country is now drowning in. We do not need to create another crisis with marijuana that causes brain damage, physical damage, and sometimes death by suicide, traffic fatality, or murder.

Studies have found significant and permanent drops in IQ among regular marijuana users, especially those who start using it in their youth. A recent, multi-national study found a five-fold increase in psychosis among young people who used high-potency marijuana. Youth are being harmed.

This science matters. Recreational marijuana, particularly at the high-potency levels the industry promotes, will make our society sicker, not healthier. A lot of questions remain to be answered, and are being answered in current JAMA and NIH studies, some released as early as May 2020.

Please join informed voices in voting "no" on 23.

**Bronwen Skinner, Outreach Coordinator, Parents Opposed to POt, Willow Park**

The legalization of marijuana can only lead to problems and heartache for residents. Legal marijuana will not be a great revenue producer and will lead to many problems that may not be readily realized.

School attendance and grades suffer as students become less motivated and involved in learning. Minds are affected by the use of drugs that are not prescribed and monitored by a licensed medical professional. Medicinal marijuana is regulated and documented but recreational use will not be. Minds suffer and futures suffer when drugs are easy to get and use.

Work attendance and production will also suffer as employees become less interested in work ethic and initiative, costing employers in lost work hours and lost revenue. This cost will be eventually put on the consumer as increased cost for merchandise.

Crime and traffic violations can also increase with the use of drugs. Judgment suffers when under the influence of drugs and accidents happen when poor decisions are made. It may also increase the need for more enforcement procedures and increased personnel to handle the influx of offenders. All this will be reflected in higher taxes of some kind and will affect all consumers. I have lived and visited where the legalization of marijuana has taken place. Second hand smoke

and the smell of marijuana can be very unsettling to those around the user, and the only way to avoid this is to avoid going where marijuana is used. This may be a problem for businesses which happen to be in an area where users are.  
Arizona is a wonderful place to live. Please vote "No" and don't let Arizona become a casualty of this insidious problem.

**Jo Poulsen, Prescott**

Vote NO on Legalizing High THC Marijuana products

Is Big Marijuana banking on changing our state's name to "Marizona"? Huge profits are in store for them while we ALL will pay.

Fool me once Big Marijuana--shame on YOU! Fool me twice--shame on ME!

The Marijuana Industry fooled us into voting for the Medical Marijuana Act when they said it was for compassionate care for those who were terminally ill and dying. Remember those heart-wrenching commercials? Now most of the marijuana card holders are young men under 40, NOT cancer patients.

Big Marijuana said it would eliminate the Black Market. They said it would make our towns safer. We have more kids using marijuana, more addicts, more ER visits, more crime, more gangs, more homelessness, more people sentenced to prisons for drug-related offenses. Our towns are NOT safer.

They said it would make the streets safer. More impaired drivers. More wrong-way drivers, more accidents, more kids left in hot cars, more deaths. More tragedies. Our streets and highways are NOT safer.

Higher insurance rates. Higher taxes for health care, law enforcement, judges, jails and prisons, kids dropping out of school and in foster care.

Smarter, Safer? Or do the high THC Levels make it Dumber and More Dangerous?

We have gotten smarter though. We voted against legalizing marijuana in 2016.

Please don't help the Marijuana Industry to ruin more lives, addict more kids and cost us ALL more. Please really help us to keep our families and communities healthy, smart and safe. Tell the Marijuana Industry and their fancy millionaires, lawyers, lobbyists and advertising agencies to take a big hike.

VOTE NO TO LEGALIZING RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IN ARIZONA.

**Bernice Carver, Flagstaff**

Prop XXX, the Smart and Safe Arizona Act is another effort by the owner/operators of the existing medical marijuana industry to increase their control of marijuana sales and distribution in our state. According to the initiative, once marijuana is legalized for recreational use, there will be a set number of licenses issued for recreational marijuana operations, just as there are for the current medical marijuana operations, but the current medical marijuana license holders will have the first option to accept or decline the opportunity to pursue a recreational license. This effort to benefit a select interest group by voter initiative was attempted in the last election cycle and was defeated. We need to defeat it again.

In addition to benefiting the few, this initiative promises millions of dollars for education; always a carrot to the public in an effort to legalize drugs. There are additional promises of millions of dollars to “improve public health” and millions of dollars for highway safety to “reduce impaired driving”, among other things. But neither of these last two incentives would be necessary if marijuana was kept in its current status (medicinal only) and not offered to the general public for recreational use.

Legalization of marijuana will have an immediate and direct negative impact on the citizens of Arizona: we will see increased drug use among teens, increased number of people addicted to marijuana, increased driving while impaired incidents on our highways and increased death by impaired drivers on our highways. A quick look at statistics from Colorado and other states that have legalized marijuana will bear out these results. The citizens of Arizona must vote, “No” on the Smart and Safe Arizona Act on November 3rd.

### **Ivan Anderson, Speaker/Educator, Matforce, Cottonwood**

Not my kid! That is what I used to say about my son when it came to drug use. It was always someone else’s kid not mine. Today, I would like to tell his story because he is no longer here to do it himself.

My son started using marijuana around the age 13 years old. My husband and I saw a text message on his cell phone to a friend stating he was looking for some good weed. Knowing the effects of marijuana on his young developing brain, we immediately took the steps necessary to put a stop to his continued use, or so we thought.

Three years later, after receiving a few injuries from a horrible head on car accident caused by an impaired driver, his need for marijuana increased. When he was confronted about using so often, his response was that he couldn’t stop because marijuana had such a grip on him.

Eventually, he went from using marijuana to pain medication. I believe his early use of marijuana, combined with the trauma of the car accident, had prepped his brain to seek harsher drugs. In 2013 my son lost his battle and lost his life.

I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard “it’s only marijuana.” Tell that to the small child who ended up in the emergency room because she thought her father’s marijuana laced gummy bears was candy. Tell that to the countless other people grieving the loss of a family member because their loved one believed the high potency marijuana we see today is safe.

The harm of recreational marijuana use is greater than the benefit, and that is why I am voting NO on Prop XXX.

**Jill Martin, Prescott**

MEMO – RE: NO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

1-23-2020 Smart and Safe Arizona Act

DATE: June 14, 2020

TO: Secretary of State ELECTIONS –

FROM: Vicki Vaughn

RE: NO to INITIATIVE REFERENDUM – RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA –

I am writing to strongly object to legalization of recreational marijuana in the state of Arizona.

The legalization of marijuana has proven to be disastrous in other states where legalized already. Let's learn from them! Please don't compare it to liquor, because rarely does one consistently drink before leaving for work or school in the morning, but users of pot REGULARLY have a joint in the morning, on break, at lunch, after dinner, and/or before bed.

Drivers young and old are driving impaired. How do we test for this? How do employers regularly test for use in their businesses? The marijuana of today is not the marijuana of old. It is much more potent, and the use of it in edibles exacerbates potential overdoses. I truly believe we will lose businesses in Arizona when they know that using marijuana at work is like grabbing a cigarette.

Teens have less drive and enthusiasm because they are constantly impaired. Studies have shown that the brain does not develop until mid-twenties, so all these young adults are suppressing the normal, healthy growth of their brain. Severe and chronic depression is common, and even schizophrenia has shown to be a result. These are serious, well-documented studies.

Arizona narrowly defeated this last presidential election. Outside influencers should not be allowed the strength they are showing to have. Please, please, take these arguments seriously and do not allow this on the ballot.

**Ms. Vicki Browning Vaughn, Paradise Valley**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

NO to RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Ballot Measure 1-23-2020 Smart and Safe Arizona Act June 14, 2020

This letter is my objection to the legalization of recreational marijuana in the state of Arizona. We know there is a ton of money being poured into Arizona to see this happen. Why are we allowing outsiders to influence our State?

Medical marijuana is already legal in Arizona but that should not be an argument for the legalization of RECREATIONAL use. State like California, Oregon and Colorado have had disastrous results trying to regulate it. The revenues proposed have not shown to be true (even though many will not tell you that unless you delve into the horrendous expenses as a result!) While the affect will be felt by many, teenagers and young adults are the most at risk. Many

studies have shown the brain is still developing into the middle twenties and pot stops the growth of synapsis commonly causing severe and chronic depression and even schizophrenia. These are serious and documented studies!

How do we know when a driver is impaired? How do employers know when employees are using and possibly impaired? Marijuana today much more potent than what was available years ago. Arizona has seen tremendous growth in business moving here because of many factors....one being the control they have over drugs....and marijuana IS A DRUG! The loss of safety at work and school is not worth it!

Last presidential election was close with this being narrowly defeated. Largely voters did NOT UNDERSTAND what it meant. They did not have the historical evidence available now from CA, OR and CO.

As one who loves Arizona, takes pride in the economic success, and looks forward to grandchildren living here, I vote

**Mr Vernon Vaughn, Paradise Valley**

Recent lobbying campaigns have made Americans more tolerant of marijuana. As legalizations spread, more are becoming heavy users of cannabis, despite links found to mental illness and violence. The number of Americans who use recreational cannibals is soaring. Cannabis currently being consumed is far more potent than in the past. This is measured by the amount of THC it contains. This chemical is responsible for the drug's psychoactive effects. Two countries that track mental illness, Finland and Denmark, show a significant increase of psychosis since the increase in cannabis use. Many marijuana advocates will acknowledge that this drug may cause paranoia. Why is it that those who so adamantly oppose the smoking of tobacco, don't find the deep inhaling of marijuana harmful? Psychiatrists working with heroin addicts find they almost always used marijuana daily in their teens. 25% of Arizona teens who use marijuana today get it from medical marijuana cardholders. We cannot make it even more readily available to them. The legalization of recreational marijuana could cause irreversible damage to our youth for decades into the future.

**Thomas L Courtney Jr., Prescott and Janice Moss, Prescott**

This year, an initiative to legalize recreational marijuana is on your ballot. It is bad news for you, your family and Arizona. First, it would lead to an increase in marijuana use by our kids as the marijuana industry has already shown they will target them. As a father of five and someone who cares about Arizona's future, I know how vital it is that we protect our kids from the harms of marijuana. The data from other states that have passed similar initiatives shows higher rates of kids using marijuana. When kids use marijuana while their brains are still developing, it can result in harm ranging from changes in memory, concentration, and motivation to permanent IQ loss and ongoing dependence. The consequences would be devastating.

The initiative would also put our families at risk on the road by increasing the number of impaired drivers. In Colorado, where recreational marijuana was legalized in 2012, traffic deaths

involving drivers using marijuana more than doubled. In Washington, another “legal” state, drivers testing positive for THC almost tripled after legalization. I don’t want to put my family or yours at that kind of risk.

Let's not forget Arizona already offers medical Marijuana as a treatment. Those who really need it, can get it. Proliferating the use of this dangerous substance beyond medicinal use just isn't worth it.

Finally, the initiative is written to support crony capitalism. Big Marijuana - the writers and backers of the initiative – wrote the law to give themselves a monopoly for the first 60-days on a limited number of licenses. Should we put our kids and families at risk to pass an initiative that gives Big Marijuana the monopoly on a dangerous new industry? No. Arizona can do better. I encourage you to vote no.

### **Warren Petersen, House Majority Leader, AZ House of Representatives, Gilbert**

The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing over 1100 pediatricians and other pediatric healthcare providers, opposes Proposition \_\_\_\_\_ which would legalize recreational marijuana in Arizona.

Proposition \_\_\_\_\_ fails to include sensible regulations to limit children’s and adolescents’ access to marijuana. Just like tobacco products and alcohol, marijuana should be regulated to prohibit:

1. Advertising and marketing tactics that target children and adolescents
2. Use on college campuses, schools, and child care centers

Even with these types of regulations, which are absent in Proposition \_\_\_\_\_, youth remain common targets and ultimately consumers of these products to the detriment of their health and welfare. The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics believes that more effective regulation of the marijuana industry is crucial to protect newborns, children and adolescents from potential harm.

Marijuana use in pediatric populations presents risk, and marijuana use by adolescents is known to cause:

1. Negative medical, psychological, and cognitive side effects
2. Altered brain development, with detrimental effects on brain structure and function
3. Negative social outcomes for adolescents who use marijuana, such as poor school performance and decreased high school graduation rates
4. Health risks due to inhalation of marijuana smoke which contains tar and other harmful chemicals

Proposition \_\_\_\_\_ sends an inappropriate message that marijuana is a safe substance and fails to

adequately protect the health and welfare of our children. For these reasons, Arizona pediatricians oppose this proposition and urge you to vote no.

**Mary Rimsza, MD, FAAP, Advocacy Committee Chair, Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*

As a legislator, advocating for Arizona's families is a top priority. That's why I am voting NO on the initiative to legalize recreational marijuana – and I urge you to do the same. While there are many problems with this initiative that should concern us, there are two that trouble me the most. First and foremost, this initiative would make marijuana more accessible to your kids and empower Big Marijuana to target them. The data is clear. More kids use marijuana in states that legalize it for recreational use. The initiative will keep most localities from banning recreational pot shops, permit rampant social media advertising, and authorize the industry to sell marijuana gummies, candies, soda, cookies, and vape pens. A multitude of studies show the damage adolescent use of marijuana does to our children's developing brains. Until they turn 25, the prefrontal cortex (responsible for decision making, judgment and impulsivity) is still developing. Sadly, permanent IQ loss and long-term dependence can result when kids begin using young and continue that use. As a mother and grandmother, I don't want to see our children's potential robbed. We must protect them. Second, the initiative will put your family at risk on the road. Legalization of recreational marijuana increases the number of impaired drivers on the road, putting us all in danger and at times ending in tragedy. In Colorado – which legalized recreational marijuana in 2012 – one-third of marijuana users admit they drive stoned every day. Arizona families can't afford to take that same risk. For the sake of our children, our future, and our families, I urge you to vote NO.

**Nancy Barto, Representative, Phoenix**

It has been said that each state is a “laboratory of democracy.” If that is the case, states that have legalized recreational marijuana provide an opportunity for additional marijuana research. Arizona should not follow their lead until we have more positive reasons to do so. Granted, not all of the limited research to date is negative, but there are too many studies with concerning results regarding marijuana's effects on the cognitive development of our youth and young adults to justify acceptance of recreational marijuana for Arizonans. We should learn from the experience of the other states.

The most recent Arizona Youth Survey, completed every two years by students across the state in 8th, 10th and 12th grades, showed an increase in marijuana use by Arizona students. Of those who used marijuana in the last 30 days, 25% obtained it from someone with a medical marijuana card (<https://azcjc.gov>). Legalizing recreational marijuana will only make it more accessible to our young people.

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), regular marijuana use is associated with prolonged negative effects on attention, memory and learning, leading to reduced intellectual

functioning and education attainment. The NIH also says regular marijuana use can increase the risk of developing marijuana addiction, using other drugs, criminal behavior, attempting suicide, lower life satisfaction, lower average incomes, greater welfare dependence, unemployment, and workplace injury, accidents and absenteeism (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/marijuana>).

Marijuana is not harmless. Please take time to study these websites. Recreational marijuana will not promote a Smart or Safe Arizona, especially for our youth and young adults. Vote NO!

**Paul Braithwaite, DO, Physician & Parent, Prescott**

In 2016, Arizona voters rejected legalizing recreational marijuana because it was a bad deal based on false promises. Today, the same is true with this new ballot measure. That's why I'm asking you to vote "NO" again.

We know from states that have fully legalized marijuana that it has real consequences: more deaths on highways caused by high drivers, dramatic increases in teen drug use, and more newborns exposed to marijuana.

Fully legalized marijuana puts the future of Arizona's drivers at risk. In Colorado, every 2½ days someone dies in a marijuana-related traffic death. That's not what we want for Arizona. We want safe roads.

The next generation of Arizonans, our kids, also face a real risk from legalized marijuana. States that have legalized marijuana have significantly higher teen drug use than states that have not, and Colorado leads the nation in first-time teen marijuana use. That's not what we want for our next generation.

It's not just our teens at risk -- it's also babies. Large hospital organizations in Colorado are now trying to repeal legalized marijuana as they are finding more newborns exposed. Nearly 50% of newborns who were tested had marijuana in their systems in one major hospital.

The ballot measure promises new tax revenue for a variety of causes, but states like California and Massachusetts have only raised a fraction of what was promised. The promises are great, and yet the money never seems to materialize or do what's been promised.

Arizona has a bright future, but fully legalized marijuana doesn't need to be part of it. The current system with medical marijuana is serving the people who need it for health-related reasons. We don't need the wholesale expansion that full-throttle legalization will bring. Please vote "NO."

**Doug Ducey, Governor, State of Arizona, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Arizonans for Strong Leadership*

Arizona is a national leader in so many areas. It's time we lead again by defeating Proposition XXX. Why? First and foremost, we must do better for our kids. As a mother of four and a grandmother of 11, I am deeply saddened by the prospect of how this initiative would harm children. States that have passed initiatives similar to Prop XXX lead the country in rates of kids using. Arizona would be no different. Kids would become easy prey for an industry hungry to create a new generation of users. Prop XXX would give the industry license to advertise on every platform, establish retail stores in every major locality, and sell edible marijuana products like gummies, cookies, candy, soda, and vape pens. With those conditions, the industry will succeed in hooking too many of our kids and stealing their potential early. Scientific research has revealed that when kids use marijuana before their brain has fully developed (which doesn't occur until their late 20's), it can damage their brain and obstruct development. The results range from slower processing, inability to concentrate, and decreased motivation to permanent IQ loss. Some will become dependent on marijuana long-term. This is reason enough to vote no. But Prop XX would also make it more dangerous for us and our families out on the road. The increase in users will lead to an increase in impaired drivers, as we have seen in other states. 70% of Colorado users admit they drive stoned – and almost a third do it daily. In Washington, drivers testing positive for THC tripled after they passed a similar initiative. Those aren't good odds for our families to be up against when we get in the car. I encourage you to protect Arizona's families and future and reject Prop XXX.

**Sine Kerr, State Senator LD13, State of Arizona, Buckeye**

Please VOTE NO on Prop XXX

MomsStrong.org represents parents across the U.S. who have witnessed their children suffer psychosis after marijuana use and others who lost their children to marijuana-related suicide. We vehemently oppose legal marijuana in the state of Arizona.

An Arizona dad, whose son was valedictorian, class president, and graduated from Stanford University wrote, "There is ample scientific evidence that marijuana use by teenagers whose brains are in the developmental stage are at risk for psychotic events which may be long term. There is also evidence that long-term use by adults can also lead to mental impairment issues." His son died after mental health issues (paranoia, panic, schizophrenia) triggered by marijuana led him to commit suicide.

Scientific evidence abounds detailing the link between the high potency cannabis available today (THC greater than 10%) and mood disorders leading to violence, depression, psychosis, and suicide. Our website MomsStrong.org aims to make available the current research and anecdotal evidence that marijuana is a dangerous drug, especially to the developing brain. We recommend voters who want to learn more read this opinion editorial:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/op-ed/bs-ed-op-0419-marijuana-psychosis-20190415-story.html>

Arizona Dad's story and appeal to vote NO: <https://momsstrong.org/2016/10/26/arizona-dad-tells-hes-prop-205-legalizing-marijuana-based-familys-story/>

**Sally Schindel, Volunteer, Moms Strong, Prescott****Proposition XXX Has Public Health Benefits and Risks**

The Arizona Public Health Association has been Arizona's independent voice for public health for over 90 years. We believe Proposition XXX poses both public health risks and benefits.

Benefits include decriminalization for possession of small amounts of marijuana and expungement of prior marijuana convictions. Possession of marijuana is a felony in Arizona (except for medical marijuana patients). Felony convictions and incarceration have lasting impacts on the mental, physical, and economic health of the individual and their children, lifetime lower earning potential, and reduced educational attainment. Incarceration and felony convictions for marijuana offenses have multigenerational social, economic, and health impacts that have been disproportionately thrust on communities of color because they are more likely to be arrested for and convicted of marijuana offenses.

Proposition XXX also includes monitoring and regulation of production, potency, testing, and labeling of marijuana products. The tax revenue would support evidence-based public health programs, including substance use prevention and treatment.

The Act would allow existing medical marijuana dispensaries to co-locate with dispensaries that could sell Cannabis to all adults over 21, which will make it easier to access and use. The risks of marijuana use include impaired neurological development from use in adolescence, increased visits to emergency rooms from marijuana intoxication or accidental ingestion by children, adverse birth outcomes from maternal use, and injuries caused by impaired driving or workplace use.

If the Act passes, we urge the state to use its full regulatory authority to enforce purchasing age-limits, packaging and potency standards, regulate advertising and place of use restrictions, enact workplace use policy requirements, and solidify motor vehicle operation restrictions and penalties. Arizona officials should also partner with state universities to analyze and publish data on its public health impacts.

For additional information and analysis visit [www.azpha.org](http://www.azpha.org).

**Will Humble, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association, Phoenix**

The marijuana industry is trying to sell us on legalization by telling us jails and prisons are full of innocent pot-smokers, but it's not true. Here's the data: Half of all U.S. prison inmates are behind bars for violent crimes. The rest are mostly in for property crime like burglary or for drunk or drugged driving. Only 15 percent are in for drug crimes, and almost all of those are in prison for trafficking, not possession. Fewer than one percent of prison inmates are locked up solely for possession, and there's always much more to the story; most of them either pleaded

down from a more serious charge or were caught with so much dope they were obviously selling it. And only 5 percent of this already small number involves marijuana; the other 95 percent were in possession of (and often selling) hard drugs. In other words, no one goes to prison solely for simple marijuana possession. As the Los Angeles Times wrote, it's "pure bunk" that "tax money, cop time and jail space are wasted corralling and incarcerating marijuana users. Maybe that was true decades ago. But today it's a myth. No one gets busted and jailed for merely smoking a joint." Please don't believe anyone who tells you otherwise.

**Ed Gogek, M.D., Medical Director, New Freedom in Recovery, Prescott**

The Smart and Safe Arizona Act couldn't be further from the truth.

There is nothing smart and nothing safe about increasing the number of people driving under the influence of marijuana and high potency THC concentrates. To find out how legalization impacts the safety of our roads, we need only to look at Colorado. The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area produces the gold standard of reports on how legalization has impacted the state. Colorado serves as an experimental lab for the nation to determine the impact of legalizing marijuana. They have gathered and examined meaningful data and have identified trends. It's designed to help people make informed decisions if legalization is considered in their state.

Here's what the report found.

Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths in which drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 109 percent while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 31 percent.

Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled from 55 in 2013 to 115 people killed in 2018. This equates to one person killed every 3 days in 2018 compared to one person killed every 6 ½ days in 2013.

Since recreational marijuana was legalized, the percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths that were marijuana related increased from 15 percent in 2013 to 23 percent in 2018

Driving soon after using marijuana increases the risk of a motor vehicle crash. For less-than-weekly marijuana users, smoking, eating, or drinking marijuana containing 10mg or more of THC is likely to cause impairment that affects their ability to drive, bike, or perform other safety-sensitive activities.

More stoned drivers equals more death on Arizona highways. Worse, it could be you or a loved one. Keep our roads safe! I urge you to Vote NO on Prop XXX.

**Darren Lee, Scottsdale**

As a representative of the citizens of Arizona's 1st legislative district, I am always looking to make decisions that are best for our children, our families, and our state. We are being asked to

pass Prop XXX to legalize recreational marijuana in Arizona, a decision that would result in significant harms. We voted NO in 2016. Once again, out of state groups are trying to force us to accept their out of state vision!! I am strongly opposing it!! Prop XXX has been paid for by the marijuana industry and was written to give them a total monopoly. Prop XXX would increase use of marijuana by our kids and grandkids, putting their developing brains at risk of damage just as they are beginning their lives. It would allow the marijuana industry to advertise broadly and sell products that inherently appeal to kids like gummies, cookies, candy, soda, and vape pens. Prop XXX would make our families less safe on the road by increasing the number of stoned drivers on our streets and highways. It would relax health and safety requirements for medical marijuana by exempting those who hold a medical and recreational license from employing a medical doctor or following any requirement deemed burdensome. Prop XXX would make it harder for business owners and employers to maintain safe workplaces and find a sober workforce. And Arizona would foot the bill, as Prop XXX caps the tax at 16% regardless of what legalization actually costs our state (in Colorado, it's \$4.50 for every \$1 of revenue). Add up all these harms and more and this doesn't look like a decision that is good for Arizona. I'm voting NO and I hope you'll join me.

**Steve Pierce, Representative/past Senator, AZ House of Representatives, Prescott**

The Arizona Builders Alliance represents the vertical commercial construction industry in Arizona. Recreational use of marijuana in the state is a significant safety concern for our industry. The top priority of the commercial construction industry is the safety of our workers. Worker impairment leads to risks on the jobsite that will harm our workers.

Marijuana is linked to increases in job accidents and injuries. The National Institute on Drug Abuse notes that short-term effects of marijuana include impaired body movement, difficulty with thinking, slower reaction times, limited problem-solving and an altered sense of time. The outcome is obvious. Heavy equipment and machinery do not mix with recreational marijuana. Impaired workers on a job site will endanger their own lives and the lives of others.

Safety on the way to the jobsite is critical as well. Recreational marijuana will lead to more dangerous roads.

The recent 2018 MADD study details the aftermath of the Colorado legalization of marijuana on traffic fatalities. Since legalization, marijuana related traffic deaths increased 151 percent. Traffic deaths involving drivers testing positive for marijuana doubled from 55 in 2013 to 138 in 2017. This equates to one person killed every 2 ½ days.

As Arizona continues to grow, we need safe worksites and safe roads. We strongly oppose legalizing recreational marijuana.

**Tom Dunn, President, Arizona Builders Alliance, Gilbert**

CBD is already legal in all states when the THC (marijuana psychological high component is under .03%). Most who want to legalize recreational marijuana say it is because they have pain and other medical problems that THC solves for them. CBD products give you pain and other medical problem relief; therefore we do not need to legalize recreational marijuana. Vote no on the so-called smart and safe initiative for the following reasons:

1. Marijuana use harms the brain, and legalization will increase mental health problems. Cannabis use may increase the risk of developing schizophrenia, depression, and other psychiatric disorders.
2. Colorado's number of fatalities where a driver tested positive for any cannabinoid (Delta 9 or any other metabolite) increased from 55 (11% of all fatalities) in 2013 to 139 (21% of all fatalities) in 2017.
3. There were 31 organized crime case filings in 2012 and 119 in 2017  
[www.colorado.gov/pacific/publicsafety/news/colorado-division-criminal-justice-publishes-report-impacts-marijuana](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/publicsafety/news/colorado-division-criminal-justice-publishes-report-impacts-marijuana)
4. Reaction time (RT), perception, short-term memory and attention, motor skills, tracking, and skilled activities are altered with cannabis intoxication.
5. U.S. states that legalized cannabis, 40% of high school seniors had used cannabis compared with 26% in states that do not have legalized cannabis (11). Moreover, only 16.4% of high school seniors thought that cannabis smoking puts users at a greater risk for adverse effects.  
[www.nsc.org/Portals/0/Documents/NSCDocuments\\_Advocacy/Divisions/ADID/Position-on-Cannabis-and-Driving.pdf](http://www.nsc.org/Portals/0/Documents/NSCDocuments_Advocacy/Divisions/ADID/Position-on-Cannabis-and-Driving.pdf)

Linda Gray, former Senator and Public Safety Chair; Member of National Safety Council/Alcohol & Impairment Department

### **Linda Gray, Former Arizona Senator, Prescott**

I've worked in the drug prevention field for over 10 years. I have read the very valid studies surrounding the harms of marijuana and spent years teaching our community's parents and youth about these dangers. But, today I'm choosing to speak as a parent of two teenagers and a child young enough to not know a time that marijuana wasn't legal. This has been my personal experience.

Each year more youth are using marijuana. I'm not looking at the data, though it does support this statement. I'm hearing it from parents everywhere. Most of the parents I talk to in my job, plus the parents of my children's friends, all have concerns about marijuana. Their child is using it, or being pressured to use it, on an almost daily basis.

It's more potent than ever. Our children aren't smoking a joint. They are vaping THC, the chemical that gets you high. There's so much THC in the vapes that kids are being taken to the hospital for sickness, disorientation, injuries due to falls, and more. For reference, a joint in my high school days was 4% THC, vapes today are 60%+ THC.

Parents are at a loss as to what to do. They usually start out by thinking it's not a big deal because it's "just marijuana." Then their child starts doing weird stuff and they quickly realize something is wrong and need to intervene on behalf of their child. But it's "just marijuana," so what do they do? People have a hard time believing marijuana can cause problems until it does.

As a parent, I cannot support any more legalized drugs. It's just too harmful to my children, my children's children and beyond. I'm voting against Prop XXX.

**Nikki Rosson, Dewey**

#### ARIZONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY URGES YOU TO VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION XXX

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry strongly urges you to vote NO on Proposition XXX.

Arizona voters in 2016 rejected marijuana legalization. They should do so again.

Despite the assurances of marijuana proponents, more harm than good will result from legalization. The potential consequences of legalization are severe, ranging from an uptick in workplace accidents and lower overall workplace productivity, to jeopardizing our workforce development efforts and desire to ensure at least 60% of Arizonans secure a post-high school credential or training.

On the public health side, Arizona faces increased rates of addiction and costs that come with drug treatment and rehabilitation. Research indicates that fatal car crashes involving marijuana have spiked dramatically, as have the number of drivers with marijuana in their system. We're already navigating a global pandemic; we don't need to put even more stress on the public health system.

The claimed state revenue benefits are likely to fall short. The costs of drug treatment and rehabilitation programs make legalization an expensive proposition when state and city budgets are already buckling under tremendous fiscal strain.

If legalization passes by this initiative, it will be essentially carved in stone. Current Arizona law severely limits the ability of the Legislature to reverse or alter a voter-passed measure, even in cases of severe unintended consequences or a public health emergency. We should not pass a new law by initiative that will be impossible to ever change or undo, nor should we encourage special interests to use Arizona's ballot box as a personal laboratory for risky experiments.

There will always be individuals who want to get high. But Arizona should not calibrate a sweeping, untested public policy effort around them.

**Glenn Hamer, President and CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry*

The Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association and its member hospitals are committed to providing high quality healthcare and improving the health of Arizona communities. For these reasons we oppose the legalization of marijuana for non-medical purposes. Evidence indicates

marijuana is not a harmless substance. Like all drugs, it carries substantial health risks, and should remain a regulated substance for medicinal purposes as approved by Arizona voters in 2010.

In states that have approved recreational use of marijuana, studies show increases in both emergency department visits due to marijuana intoxication and unintentional exposures in children resulting in hospitalization. The higher potency of today's marijuana increases the chance of psychotic episodes, including hallucinations and paranoia. Legalizing commercial marijuana will also increase access to marijuana by youth and contribute to the growing perception among young people that marijuana is safe for them to consume recreationally. Yet there is clear and convincing evidence of the harmful effects of marijuana on the brains of pre-teens, teenagers, and young adults.

Make no mistake, the goal of the marijuana industry behind this ballot initiative is to promote its product to the widest market available and to profit from it. They will fight every effort by the government to enact tough regulations that limit the THC, the main psychoactive compound in marijuana, content of edibles and the marketing of their products. While the criminal justice reforms in this initiative are valuable, they are a distraction—or guise—from the true intent of the industry, which is to get more people addicted for the industry's own profit.

The motto of medical providers is “first, do no harm.” With this in mind, we must speak up and urge Arizona voters to vote “no” on the legalization of marijuana in November.

**Ann-Marie Alameddin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, Phoenix and Mike Patterson, Chief Executive Officer, Havasu Regional Medical Center, Lake Havasu City**

As adults, let's protect Arizona's youth today and in the future. Arizona has already voted previously to make marijuana available medically. We should not now vote to make medicine available to recreate with. Marijuana is either medicine or it is something to recreate (or get high with) but it cannot be both. I have been serving Arizona's youth for over 30 years as a teacher, a drug abuse non-profit founder and a former director of a state agency caring for youth and families, there are no positive outcomes to scaling more marijuana into our state. In fact, youth use rates will rise. While dispensaries will profit, the state will in fact incur an increase in spending for drug treatment, healthcare, law enforcement and more. We cannot afford this, it provides no benefit and in fact further breaks down families, schools and communities. I am an adamant no and ask you to consider the future well being of Arizona's youth and families.

**Debbie Moak, Phoenix**

I was once a marijuana user for decades and strongly believed that marijuana was safe and non-addicting. However my attitude changed completely once I WENT TO WORK IN A MASSACHUSETTS MARIJUANA DISPENSARY FOR A YEAR AND A HALF AS A BUDTENDER. To maximize its profits, the marijuana industry is manufacturing unnatural marijuana products that are exceedingly harmful to physical and mental health.

It's all about profits for the marijuana industry, and marijuana contaminated with mold, fungus, bacteria, pesticides and heavy metals is being produced. I was fortunate to wake up to the harms

of my corporation's marijuana, seek medical attention, diagnosed with heavy metal poisoning. I had absolutely no idea going into the marijuana industry that it was capable of such treachery. I was gullible and duped that my marijuana corporation was producing a clean, safe product, for this is what it espoused. I naively trusted the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be regulating the marijuana industry and protecting public health, instead of understanding the reality of regulatory capture by the marijuana industry.

Regulatory capture does not only result in sale of contaminated marijuana, but also no limit on THC, allowing promotion and sale of extreme high potency THC. High potency THC increases addiction. This is the unspoken mission statement of the marijuana industry. The resulting carnage of harm to brains, such as psychosis, is collateral damage from the marijuana industry's quest for profits, its inconvenient truth.

I had no understanding of the reality wrought from commercialization – the deceptive and dangerous industrialized addiction-for-profit marijuana industry. I was fortunate to wake up to the harms and survive. Many others haven't been so fortunate. My hope is that Arizonans see the truth and choose health instead of falling for the deception.

**Anne Hassel, Former budtender, Chicopee**  
*Sponsored by Sally Schindel*

Rep. Walt Blackman Letter June 17, 2020

Arizona's children are our key to a bright future. That's why I'm adamantly opposing Proposition C-02-2020. Our children need healthy minds to have the best chance at success. But prop C-02-2020 would harm their developing brains. According to Staci Gruber, associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, "the brain is abnormally vulnerable during adolescence." Studies show that when marijuana use begins before the brain is developed (late 20's) and continues into adulthood, development is inhibited, the brain is altered and often damaged, and permanent IQ loss and long-term dependence can ensue. Prop C-02-2020 would also empower the Big Marijuana industry to target our kids. To continue making a profit, Big Marijuana needs to hook the next generation of their customer base. Prop C-02-2020 would allow advertising on every platform, including social media, and prohibit most localities from choosing to ban retail pot shops. It would also allow the industry to sell marijuana products attractive to kids, including gummies, candy, cookies, sodas, and vape pens. The increased access, visibility, and appealing products combine to make our children incredibly vulnerable. And the data is pretty clear. States that choose to pass initiatives like this one have among the highest rates of adolescent use in the country. But we aren't doomed to make the mistakes that other states have made. Arizona can and MUST do better to protect our children and our future. I'm urging you to vote NO on prop C-02-2020.

Walter J. Blackman  
 Arizona State Representative  
 Legislative District 6

**Walter Blackman, Arizona State Representative Legislative District 6, Snowflake**

The “Smart and Safe Arizona Act” is a misleading initiative at worst, and a misnomer at best. There is nothing smart or safe about the legalization of pot; and, Arizona Voters should reject organizer’s plot to poison our cities, placate our children, and plunder our public resources. The initiative sponsors claim that more money will be set aside for “Public Safety and Expanding Public Health Services” – and they are correct that more money will be needed in those areas to deal with the detrimental health affects of pot legalization. Increases in driving under the influence, pot induced psychosis, and debilitating addiction are all pointed consequences to legalization.

Moreover, while pot advocates love to point to the alcohol industry as an example of how regulation could occur, neither Federal nor State tax and regulatory structures are adequately formed to deal with the onslaught of the burdens of pot legalization. In fact, a recent study published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry found that, “long-term, heavy use is linked to psychological and physical health concerns, lower educational attainment, decline in social class, unemployment, and motor vehicle crashes.” No matter how you look at it, legalizing pot is bad for our communities, our families, and our society. Please vote, “No”.

**Christopher Clements, Chairman & Founder, Rise UP Foundation, Paradise Valley**

Speaker Bowers Letter

Submitted personally and unofficially. Why the lies? The greedy and manipulative marijuana money machine continues to lie about how their “harmless” product in order to cash in at the cost of our kids, our health and our safety! What lies, you ask? Here’s one - Marijuana is harmless. Really? Even before birth, one can suffer the harmful impacts of marijuana. When a pregnant mother uses marijuana, THC can enter the child’s brain, affecting brain development. Use during pregnancy can also result in growth restriction, pre-term birth, and low birth weight. Next, studies show that when youth begin marijuana use before brain development is complete (age 25) the brain can suffer permanent damage. More studies are augmenting the evidence between marijuana use and mental illness, including schizophrenia and violent paranoia. Today’s marijuana is extremely potent. In the 70s a joint had about 2% THC. Today it’s 20 to 25% THC. Other products show levels up to 75 and even 100% THC. Prop XXX sets weak potency caps that would make it very easy for anyone – including our kids – to overconsume. Another lie? This will benefit our economy. Check with “legal” states to see. Many never reached their projected revenues. Those that did usually spend far more in marijuana-related costs to the state than they bring in. Colorado, which legalized in 2012, spends \$4.50 on marijuana-related costs for every \$1 of revenue. To boost the Marijuana economy more, Prop XXX caps the marijuana tax at 16% regardless of Arizona’s cost. I’m not lying about marijuana to my kids. Please join me.

**Russell W Bowers, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Mesa**

I am writing to state my opposition to Proposition XXX. Why would we want to legalize the recreational use of marijuana when we know the harm it will do? Eleven states have legalized marijuana, and it has never been successful. The following two issues alone should cause you to vote against it: 1) Auto insurance rates go up, due to more accidents caused by impaired drivers. 2) Many regular marijuana users believe the propaganda that being stoned does not affect their driving. Yet, in Colorado, someone dies in a traffic accident involving a stoned driver every 2-1/2 days. Please think about that before you go to the polls.

But here's the big issue--the effect it will have on Arizona's youth. Legalizing recreational marijuana means that it will be more accessible to youth. Studies already show that more youth are using marijuana because of the propaganda they hear that it is not harmful. That propaganda is wrong. Studies have revealed that significant, permanent drops in IQ result from regular marijuana use, especially for those who start using in their youth. Studies have also shown that a significant increase in mental health issues for teens occurs from regular marijuana use.

Be aware of the facts. The high potency marijuana is where the money is. Once it is legalized, these products will be more available to our society, especially for our youth. This will lead to more addiction among our youth, more mental health and brain development issues, such as those I mentioned above, and less productivity in the workplace.

Legalizing recreational marijuana will be bad for Arizona. Please join me in voting no on Proposition XXX.

**Vernon Koehlinger, Buckeye**

As a father, grandfather and business owner I ask you to join me in opposing the legalization of recreational marijuana in Arizona. I'm in the business of selling cars and each year we take pride in announcing the safety features of the new models because we know these features are important to our buyers. But honestly, I'd prefer you never need to use these features. Should this initiative pass, our roads will be less safe and law enforcement will, according to this initiative's own language, have less than ideal guidelines when dealing with impaired drivers. When we hand you the keys to your new vehicle, we want you to have a safe, enjoyable experience whenever you are behind the wheel. We know that legalization puts more impaired drivers on the roads and that is bad for Arizona. And, if you take a minute to read this initiative, you will also see that it greatly benefits a very small group of people who are already in the business of selling marijuana. As a businessman, I appreciate an entrepreneur, however, read between the lines. This isn't a citizen's initiative, this is something that will permanently negatively impact our state, while lining the pockets of those who are already in the business of selling marijuana. We can do better. Please vote No.

**Jim Click Jr., President, Jim Click Automotive Group, Tucson**

The team at Impact Employee Solutions receive calls daily from Employers in Arizona concerned with marijuana situations at work. Since 2011, when we opened our doors as a third

party administrator of drug-free workplace programs, we've seen marijuana drug positive tests triple within employment testing. Employers that have been with us since the start long for earlier times when they had the right to conduct a drug-free workplace for safety's sake, experienced fewer accidents, and were free of the constant threat of legal claims or lawsuits surrounding marijuana. A decade ago, a marijuana drug user did not have special protections that the rest of us don't have. Now they do. In this initiative, marijuana drug users will have legal protections above all other employees.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, most employees worked from home. During March and April, marijuana sales spiked. While churches, drug recovery groups, and coalitions were forced to disband, stores that sold marijuana products were deemed essential and use skyrocketed. Marijuana use increased. Employers reported witnessing marijuana use during employee video conference calls on company time. If access is this easy, why would we legalize it, commercialize it, and encourage its use more widespread? Employers are stuck with the medical law that protects drug users now. Why impose more legal and safety harm on Employers and employees?

An Employer loses rights to maintain a safe environment for all when employees can smoke weed before coming to work and the law protects the drug user. Employers will have to prove impairment for an adverse employment decision when the pro-pot industry knows there is no standard. Arizonans need to really think if our business communities benefit from more pot use by employees. IES opposes the legalization of marijuana and this initiative.

**Gina Kesler, CEO, HSB Consulting Inc dba Impact Employee Solutions, Phoenix and Jay Hughes, Vice President, HSB Consulting Inc dba Impact Employee Solutions, Phoenix**

We firmly believe that strong families build strong communities. Unfortunately, drug abuse in the United States is at epidemic proportions, and the dangers of recreational marijuana to public health and safety are well documented. The use of recreational marijuana has proven to negatively affect everything from education to job stability and is especially harmful to our most vulnerable populations. Recent studies have shed light particularly on the risks marijuana use poses to brain development in youth. The use of marijuana has proven to have negative effects on attention, memory, and learning.

Access to more mind-altering drugs, like marijuana, has a ripple effect on families. Money that is better spent on bills, groceries and household expenses might now be wasted on drugs. There is also substantial evidence to show that recreational marijuana use leads to problems in the workplace which could lead to unemployment. It also may lead to other serious issues such as family neglect, divorce, domestic violence and child abuse.

At a time when it is more important than ever to stay connected with our families and our neighbors, recreational marijuana may create brain fog, anxiety and a detachment from society or reality. Rather than more legalized drugs we should find ways to increase our capacity to connect with our families and neighbors. For the good of the community and the family we strongly oppose this dangerous proposal.

**Elder C. Dale Willis Jr., Area Seventy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mesa**

In Arizona we have seen the devastating effects of a health crisis pandemic on our health, our economy, our mental health, really all aspects of our lives. Why would we choose to self-inflict a more devastating permanent crisis and legalize recreational marijuana? Eleven states have now legalized marijuana, and not one example is successful, why ignore the facts. In every state, more teens are stoned, more drivers are impaired, more workers flunk drug tests, there are significant and permanent drops in IQ among regular marijuana users, and a five-fold increase in psychosis among young people who used high-potency marijuana. The percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th grade Arizona students who say they use marijuana has increased over the past four years. Calls to the Maricopa County poison control center involving marijuana ingested by children under 10 years old increased tenfold from 2014.

Proponents will say that legalizing recreational use will get the criminal element out of the marijuana industry not true. Colorado's Amendment 64 promised a regulated market would do away with the illegal dealers and drug cartels. In fact, it appears to have done just the opposite. More people are being charged with serious marijuana-related felonies in Colorado than in the years before legalization. Charges are up nearly seven-fold from 2014 through 2017. There's no reason to think Arizona will be any different.

Medical marijuana is legal in Arizona. That isn't going to change, we have had it since 2010. Recreational marijuana, particularly at the high-potency levels the industry promotes, will make our society sicker, not healthier. Why would we want to allow recreational use when we know the harm it will do to our youth, our business, and our communities based on what has happened in other states. I urge you to join me and vote no.

**Jay Hughes, Phoenix**

I am an Arizona citizen, employed in the insurance industry, a husband, father, grandfather, and active in many aspects of my community. I am an advocate of public safety, public health, and proper protocol amongst my fellow citizens.

Commercial vehicle (e.g. trucks & busses) drivers are held to a higher standard when it comes to their actions; both personal and professional. The acceptable level of blood alcohol content for these drivers is lower than other 'personal auto' drivers. Commercial drivers have a ZERO TOLERANCE level for specific drugs that, if identified in a test, will disqualify them from operating their commercial vehicle. They lose their right to work. Why? Public safety requires they not operate while under the influence of impairing substances. Why would we allow other citizens to operate vehicles under the influence? Why would we allow our public roadways, the workplace of commercial vehicles, to become increasingly dangerous with drivers that are impaired by drugs, including marijuana, and contributing to an ever increasing challenge for the auto insurance industry to have any hope of positive results from their Underwriting efforts?

No amount of tax revenues can overcome the increased costs to public from dangerous roadways, exposure to innocent children, and increased load upon our first responders and

enforcement communities. The cost of 'getting high' will be higher injuries and fatalities with diminished societal values and mental health. I want to live in a safe, healthy, and vibrant Arizona, one that's not stoned.

The appropriate actions are to control access, use, and increase the penalties for persons that choose to operate impaired. This starts NOW by discontinuing any further legalization of marijuana.

**Richard Bren, Vice President of Insurance, PFA Transportation Insurance & Surety Services, Litchfield Park**

In an era where there is much talk about 'defunding' police departments, we are faced with great choices. Do we put our police departments in charge of checking for 'stoned' teens and adults. Teens and adults don't need any more ways to drive cars and trucks in an impaired state. I taught elementary children for 12 years in Phoenix and high schoolers for 4 years. I have read studies that indicate that use of marijuana decreases a person's IQ. The children I have had contact with don't need any help getting 'dumber' and more numb when it comes to motivation and goal setting. We don't need any more fatal accidents or any other ingredient that adds to the opioid crisis in Arizona. Please say no to voting for this proposed amendment.

**Jane Luckman, concerned retired teacher and attorney, Scottsdale**

Most people have not heard that marijuana use is linked with mental illness. My brother and I wish we knew this many years ago. Back in the 1970's, when THC potency was 5%, I had a psychotic episode while getting high – it was incredibly frightening. I didn't use it much. My brother, however, liked the "fun house" experience and used it regularly. He now has schizophrenia. He is permanently disabled, on SSDI for the last 7 years and will be on it for the rest of his life (he's 60). By the way, he has a graduate degree from USC and came from a loving home.

Most people have not heard marijuana can pull the trigger for a mental illness in a person who may have family history--that's about 10% of the population. THC potency will rise with commercialization. Researchers tell us this will bring an increase in psychosis in just a few years because the higher potency products put people with no predisposition to mental illness at risk. Most people do not know the THC, the psychoactive ingredient, has increased by 4-5 x with the flower and 10-20 x with the dabs & waxes.

My brother believed he was being followed by the CIA, so he lived underneath a freeway. When he wasn't there, he was in jail.

The LA Times reported recently that the increase in homelessness in LA is due to an increase in the rise of substance use and mental illness. Shouldn't we be doing everything in our power to prevent more of both of these?

My brother says if he knew marijuana would make him go crazy, he never would have tried it. Most people have never heard this. Maybe if more people did, we'd have less mental illness.

VOTE NO on Prop XXX

**Heidi Swan, Author, A Night in Jail, Hermosa Beach**

*Sponsored by Sally Schindel*

On behalf of our sons, Sean Quigley and Andy Bauer, we strongly urge you to vote NO on I-23-2020.

Sean was a microbiology major at the U of A. He had been on the dean's list and was driven, organized, loved life, and wanted to live it fully and authentically.

Andy had planned to become a neurosurgeon and was taking his first classes toward that end in his freshman year of college. He was kind, gentle, and had a great sense of humor.

Both young men started with casual marijuana use that quickly led to despair and their loss of hope. They became distant, unfocused, and depressed. In that depression, they each took their own lives.

THC-induced psychosis and suicide rates are increasing, especially within the adolescent population, and the links between high-potency marijuana and these issues are becoming clearer.

Neither of our sons knew each other, but our stories are remarkably similar. In fact, we have met many other parents who have shared almost identical stories. We speak out in honor of our sons. Because it can cause serious mental health issues, high-potency THC should not be recreational.

**Janean Quigley RN, Flagstaff and Kira Russo, Flagstaff**

The biggest problem with this initiative is not that it legalizes marijuana, but that it legalizes a for-profit marijuana industry that will do anything to boost profits. I work in drug treatment. Research shows clearly that pot-smoking heroin addicts have a much harder time getting clean from heroin. But the \$15 billion marijuana industry has spent millions to convince us that pot helps opioid addicts, even though the opposite is actually true, and many of my patients believe them. That's what happens when you legalize a for-profit industry that makes its money selling an addictive drug. We know how dishonest the alcohol and tobacco companies are; the pot industry is no different. But today, lots of marijuana users are fed up with the industry. In 2015, the political director of the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project quit after working there for years. He said the industry had taken over and is pushing widespread use, which is great for profits but terrible for public health. He's not the only person who loves marijuana but hates the industry. Willie Nelson has smoked weed for decades, but he recently announced he is fighting against corporate marijuana. We know what the tobacco industry does; they use every sneaky

trick to get teenagers started as young as possible, because people who start using an addictive drug in their early teens will be heaviest lifetime users. The pot industry is already targeting teens heavily in states that have already legalized it. That's why those states have the highest rates of teenage use. So please vote NO on this ballot measure. Remember, you are not voting against legalizing marijuana; you are voting against legalizing a for-profit marijuana industry that will use its money and power to misinform us all, to target teens and to promote widespread drug use.

**Ed Gogek, M.D., Medical Director, New Freedom in Recovery**

Vote no on Prop XXX. Prop XXX is wrong for families, wrong for businesses, and wrong for Arizona. Under this disastrous act, individuals can grow marijuana in their homes, communities can not ban marijuana shops, and employers will be put at great risk. Recreational use in other states such as Colorado have proven to be a monumental mistake. A third of marijuana users admitted to DAILY driving stoned, teen use has gone dramatically up, and more pregnant women use - leading to more newborns who test positive for THC intoxication. There is no roadside test for THC intoxication, which would also weaken our current DUI laws. The millionaires behind this initiative don't care about our kids - they allow gummies, candies, cookies and more to be sold, which are all highly THC concentrated and even adults may regularly overdose on such products. Over 98% of funding for this initiative has come from the big-marijuana businesses who stand to make even more for themselves - while our citizens and our state will suffer forever from the negative effects. Passing this initiative, which has been funded primarily by three large marijuana producers who stand to enrich themselves further, makes recreational use permanent for our state. Make the wise and safe choice for our children, our first responders, our businesses, and our state and vote NO to recreational marijuana Prop XXX.

**Jennifer Clark, Scottsdale**