



# Minnesotans Against Marijuana Legalization (MAML)

Minnesotans Against Marijuana Legalization (MAML) is a coalition to prevent legalization of recreational marijuana in Minnesota.

We believe recreational marijuana should not be legalized in Minnesota without considering the negative impacts that such a policy will have on our roads, workplaces, communities, and homes, and without providing the statutory, technical and financial resources needed to address the negative impacts.

## What are the Consequences of Legalizing Marijuana?

Marijuana legalization for retail sale and recreational use is still a social experiment, one that empirical evidence and research show is failing in the states that are allowing it. The high potency of today's "recreational" marijuana makes it worse for the human brain and body than alcohol. Like all drugs, marijuana use affects more than just the user. Legalization causes widespread costs and societal harms, affecting all aspects of our lives. It has been linked to increased homelessness, higher government spending, more public health costs, lost productivity, increased crime and violence, lost potential, higher workplace safety costs, rising business costs, and riskier roadway safety.

**Legalization is net loser for state budgets because the collateral consequences create new burdens on state resources.**

- A 2019 study in Colorado showed every \$1 of tax revenue received from recreational marijuana caused \$4.50 in state spending to counteract legalization's effects.<sup>1</sup>

**Legalization would signal that the drug is safe; a deadly message to send to Minnesotan's who may be susceptible to depression, self-medication, substance-use disorders, and suicide.**

- According to the National Institutes of Health, Mayo Clinic, and World Health Organization, marijuana is addictive, and can produce withdrawal and dependence.<sup>2</sup>
- A 2021 study sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of more than 280,000 young adults ages 18-35 found that women who used marijuana at any level were more likely to report a suicide plan or attempt than men with the same levels of marijuana use.<sup>3</sup>

**Hospital emergency departments and poison control centers in states that have legalized marijuana are treating a growing number of children who develop paranoia, anxiety and psychosis following intentional or accidental ingestion of marijuana edibles.**<sup>4 5</sup>

**The creation of a "regulated market" for marijuana, has failed to curtail the black-market in states that have legalized. In fact, the black-market activity in those states has expanded.**<sup>6 7</sup>

**Legalization will endanger everyone who uses Minnesota roadways. States that legalize marijuana for recreational use experience increased traffic accidents and fatalities. Driving while high is a growing, underappreciated problem that will be exacerbated by a rush to legalization.**

- Unlike alcohol, there is no way to judge driver impairment based on marijuana usage.
- The share of drivers involved in fatal crashes, with THC in their system, doubled after marijuana was legalized in Washington state.<sup>8</sup>

**Marijuana legalization normalizes an addictive, highly potent drug that will endanger the health of our workforce and compromise the safety of our workplaces.**

- Research shows employees who tested positive for marijuana in pre-employment drug tests have higher rates of industrial accidents, injuries and absenteeism<sup>9</sup>

**Companies in states with legalized recreational marijuana have struggled to find employees who can pass drug tests, especially for federal jobs in industries that require operation of heavy machinery, or jobs requiring truck driving.**<sup>10</sup>

**Marijuana legalization wreaks havoc on adolescent development by normalizing an addictive gateway drug.**

- A recent analysis using data from three large studies in Australia and New Zealand found that adolescents who used marijuana regularly were significantly less likely than their non-using peers to finish high school or obtain a degree. They also had a much higher chance of developing dependence, using other drugs, and attempting suicide.<sup>11</sup>

### **Marijuana legalization wreaks havoc on neighborhoods and is a net loser for homeowners.**

- A 2021 study in Seattle found that home prices near dispensaries fall by 3–4% on average because of more nuisance-related crimes that occur near dispensaries.<sup>12</sup>

**Illegal marijuana growers, which become more prevalent in legalized states, are cutting down forests, robbing water supplies, straining electrical grids, using banned pesticides and rodenticides, killing species, and depleting resources with no accountability.**

**The commercial marijuana industry has created a false dichotomy between legalization and social justice. No legal state has made good on the empty promise that legalization would provide reconciliation to communities that have been harmed by disparate enforcement of marijuana laws.**

- Lawmakers can still remove criminal penalties, expunge records, and reform enforcement mechanisms without normalizing drug use and opening the door for commercialized marijuana products to be sold in our state.

#### **Minnesotans Against Marijuana Legalization, January 2022**

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## **Coalition Members**

Minnesota Professional Towing Association  
 Minnesota Safety Council  
 Minnesota School Bus Operators Association  
 Minnesota Trucking Association  
 Smart Approaches to Marijuana MN  
 Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association  
 Minnesota Utility Contractors Association

Insurance Federation of Minnesota  
 Midwest Food Products Association  
 Minnesota Beverage Association  
 Minnesota Catholic Conference  
 Minnesota Charter Bus Operators Association  
 Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association  
 Minnesota Propane Association

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