

Dear Parents,

This fall in Arizona on the ballot will be a proposition (205) to make the recreational use of marijuana legally permissible. As a school we are opposed to this proposition. This is bad public policy and law!

The rationale given many times for this is that Prop 205 will “decriminalize” marijuana use. This proposition is not doing that! Prop 205 is 20 pages long! If decriminalization was the aim then a simple sentence making the use of, consumption of, and production of marijuana no longer a felony would have sufficed. Why 20 pages? The aim here is much more than decriminalization. It’s about out-of-state marijuana marketers looking to make millions by misleading Arizona voters.

By the way, Arizona is the only state in the US where a publicly passed proposition becomes law, and the state legislature cannot amend or change the law without a super majority, and even then the change must “further the purpose of the act.” It is permanent. We need to be careful what we vote for because of unintended consequences. Also, regardless of how you feel about medical marijuana, know that Prop 205 is not dealing with medical marijuana – rather it is asking voters to recreationalize something that is now viewed as a medicine. If Prop 205 is defeated, we will still have medical marijuana.

My arguments against this proposition are as follows:

The current marijuana is far more potent than the marijuana of the 1960s. The THC in a marijuana joint today is on average 12% compared to the 1% of the 1960s. Prop 205 allows for the production of marijuana-laced candies and treats that have an average 30% THC, some have as much as 80 or 90% THC. This measure would put no limits on the potency of such snacks. Due to the potency of current marijuana, having it in candy form poses a major danger to our children. Marijuana candy has caused major trouble in Colorado with a dramatic rise of emergency treatment for children (and even pets) accidentally ingesting marijuana-laced candy.

Prop 205 gives legal protections to marijuana users related to employment. Employers will not be allowed to dismiss or discipline employees who use marijuana recreationally. [Our school’s – Insert school name here] code of conduct does not permit employees to use this drug. That would go away with this law.

Prop 205 gives protections to marijuana-impaired drivers. If Prop 205 is passed, Arizona would be prohibited from ever setting a legal limit at which someone is guilty of DUI by marijuana. For alcohol we have a legal limit of .08 and above that you are committing a crime (DUI). This law prevents any such limits for users while driving and would make prosecuting DUI by marijuana nearly impossible. In effect our roads will be more dangerous with more traffic accidents and fatalities, and these results have played out in Colorado and other states where the recreational

marijuana is legal. In Washington State, fatal marijuana-related car accidents doubled the first year they legalized marijuana use beyond medical purposes.

Prop 205 ties the hands of judges, parenting coordinators, and mediators when making family dependent decisions. Judges will not be permitted to consider marijuana use by a parent as a factor in placing children back in homes like they can with alcoholic parents.

This is a bad piece of legislation. Prop 205 creates more government and a marijuana monopoly as well as protects special interests. I strongly urge you to go get registered to vote by the October 10 deadline, and to go vote in November if for no other reason than to vote NO on Prop 205.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]