

**ARIZONA COUNTY ATTORNEY & SHERIFFS
ASSOCIATION**

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LEON WILMOT, YUMA COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT
TONY RODGERS, LA PAZ COUNTY ATTORNEY, VICE-PRESIDENT

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA
PRIMARY SPONSOR: MATFORCE

WHEREAS we are committed to the success and positive future of our youth; and

WHEREAS marijuana, like cigarettes, is addictive;ⁱ and

WHEREAS teen recent use of marijuana has been on the rise in Arizona since 2007;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement;ⁱⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS teens who smoke marijuana regularly can see an 8 point drop in IQ by the time they reach 38 putting a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the IQ range;^{iv} and

WHEREAS marijuana use can lead to poorer academic performance in high school and enrollment gaps in college;^v and

WHEREAS teens who use marijuana heavily are more likely to develop mental illness such as schizophrenia;^{vi} and

WHEREAS marijuana use reduces inhibitions and can lead to risky behaviors, distorted perception, impaired coordination, and can cause difficulty with thinking, problem-solving and difficulty with learning and memory;^{vii} and

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Arizona Youth Survey,^{viii}

- 2012 was the first time in Arizona's history that past 30-day use of marijuana by teens surpassed their use of cigarettes; and
- Marijuana is one of only two substances whose use is on the rise among Arizona teens; and
- The perception of marijuana's risks by Arizona's youth - both users and non-users of marijuana - is decreasing and their use is increasing; and

WHEREAS, if marijuana were legalized an additional 32,000 high school students in Arizona would be more likely to use marijuana;^{ix} and

WHEREAS we are committed to the health and safety of our citizens; and

WHEREAS marijuana use is associated with additional health risks such as respiratory illness, heightened heart attack risk, and immune system suppression;^x and

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WHEREAS the active ingredient in marijuana is already the second most commonly found substance in the blood of impaired drivers;^{xi} and

WHEREAS driving while impaired by marijuana is correlated with an increased likelihood of being at fault in a crash;^{xii} and

WHEREAS marijuana is the second leading substance for which people seek drug treatment and a driving force behind emergency room visits;^{xiii} and

WHEREAS marijuana legalization would lead to increased marijuana consumption;^{xiv} and

WHEREAS we are committed to the economic health and competitiveness of our region; and


WHEREAS marijuana use can affect workplace safety and productivity;^{xv} and

WHEREAS marijuana use leads to higher health and safety costs.^{xvi}

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose the legalization of marijuana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support public education on the harms of marijuana, and proven prevention interventions such as community-based drug prevention efforts, drug treatment courts, offender re-entry programs and probation reform; and further support making drug treatment available to all who need it.

Signed this 16th day of July, 2014.

By: 
Leon Wilmot, President
Arizona County Attorney and Sheriffs Association
Yuma County Sheriff

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REFERENCES AND SOURCES:

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- ⁱⁱ "Arizona Youth Survey: State Report," Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012; p. 32.

For quick reference, see "Arizona Youth Survey 2012: Marijuana Data Brief."

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^v "Two New Studies Conclude Marijuana Use Connected to College Failure," Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America; March 28, 2013.

^{vi} "Is there a link between marijuana use and mental illness?" National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.

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<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.

^{viii} "Arizona Youth Survey: State Report," Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.

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^{ix} This prediction by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is an extrapolation based on the date included in the "Arizona Youth Survey: State Report," Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.

^x "Research Report Series: Marijuana," National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.

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^{xii} "Drug Facts: Drugged Driving," National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; October 2013."

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- ^{xiii} "The Public Health Consequences of Marijuana Legalization," White House Fact Sheet.
- ^{xiv} Kilmer, Beau, *et al.*, "Altered States? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets," RAND Corp.; 2010.
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