

The Adult Use of Marijuana Act

A February 2016 analysis of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act conducted by UC San Francisco's Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education finds that the AUMA was written primarily to create a new business and only includes minimal protections for the public that are unlikely to prevent public health harms caused by the burgeoning marijuana industry. The report is based on the premise that treating marijuana like tobacco - legal but unwanted - under a public health framework is an appropriate response to social inequities. The AUMA does not accomplish this goal. In addition to being bad for public health, the AUMA strips the regulatory framework of hard - fought provisions found in the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA), such as complete local control, limits on vertical integration, a firewall around testing licenses, and strict controls on deliveries.

The proponents of the AUMA want three things: to commercialize , normalize, and advertise recreational marijuana. As a retired police chief and former board member of the California Police Chiefs Association, I can't stand by and watch policy that is so harmful to our communities to pass, which is why I am supporting a broad coalition of law enforcement, elected officials, healthcare providers, and community members opposing this poorly drafted initiative.

The AUMA fails public safety and health by:

- o Failing to include any quantitative measurements of impairment for individuals driving under the influence of marijuana**
- o Prohibiting the licensing agency from denying a license to an applicant solely on the grounds that they have a felony narcotic conviction**
- o Allowing for the complete vertical integration of the market by large players, successfully bringing "big marijuana" to California**
- o Weakening local control**
- o Allowing the industry to regulate itself and reject any regulation that it deems to be "impractical"**
- o An analysis of the initiative by the San Diego District Attorney's office points out that the initiative allows persons convicted of dealing large amounts of controlled substances such as heroin, methamphetamine or cocaine to become legal marijuana dealers.**
- o How can our communities trust a commercial marijuana model that invites in black market operators?**

Colorado has also witnessed a 400% increase in organized crime control act filings associated with a marijuana charge since 2007. Since 2013 Colorado law enforcement has busted 88 drug cartel operations across the state; one of those busts yielded \$12 million in illegal marijuana. We can expect the same influx of illegal operators in California if this passes.

My opposition also stems from the fact that that the AUMA casts aside all of the protections the California Police Chiefs fought for over the past three years at the state capitol as they developed the recently adopted Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. Rather than simply applying this act to recreational marijuana, the proponents of the AUMA discarded any provision that would prohibit or stall the growth of "big marijuana."

The only people the proponents "got it right" for are businessmen looking to cash in on the "green rush."

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