

M C A S A

Macomb County Association of School Administrators

Barbara VanSweden, President
Christine Johns, Vice-President
Brian Walmsley, Secretary-Treasurer

January 11, 2018

ATTENTION: Trustees
Charter Township of Clinton
40700 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Dear Clinton Township Trustees:

We, the superintendents of 22 school districts in Macomb County, are writing to express our deepest concerns about the negative effects commercialized Medical Marijuana enterprises, including large-scale marijuana grow operations and retail marijuana provisioning centers (dispensaries), will have on our students. We are concerned that the introduction of such businesses in our communities will further normalize use, sending the message to our students that marijuana is a safe drug, and result in increased marijuana use by our students.

There is much accumulated data and research-based information to support our concerns:

- States that have legalized marijuana (medical and recreational or medical only) lead the nation in rates of youth marijuana use. (*National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2016*)
- The legalization of marijuana has dramatically affected schools in Colorado and Washington State in the years after legalization. For example, the most recent data (2015/16 school year) from Colorado reveals 58% of the expulsions, 63% of suspensions, and 73% of the referrals of students to law enforcement were for marijuana violations. (*Rocky Mountain High HIDTA Report, 2017 and Northwest HIDTA. 2017*)
- Marijuana use is strongly associated with academic underperformance. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
- The human brain continues to develop until the mid-20s. Developing brains are particularly susceptible to the negative effects of marijuana, including damage to the parts of the brain connected with learning, attention, decision-making, and social behavior. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
- One in 6 teens that use marijuana become addicted. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
- Marijuana is the primary reason youth enter treatment for substance abuse—more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, ecstasy, and other drugs combined. (*Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.*)

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- Emerging research suggests that adolescent marijuana use increases the risk of opiate addiction later in life. (*Yale Study, 2016*)
- National youth marijuana use has increased to 24% among adolescents in 8th, 10th and 12th grades combined. One in ten 12th grade students vaped marijuana in the past year (*Monitoring the Future National Survey, 2017*)
- THC, the addictive ingredient in marijuana, has increased significantly from an average of 1% in 1970 to 30% in 2013, making today's marijuana an alarmingly more potent drug. (*Join Together*)
- Marijuana concentrates, contained in food, "edibles", drink, and smoked, have extremely high levels of THC (80%-90%), increasing the potential for addiction and overdose. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
- Marijuana use can worsen depression and lead to other serious mental health issues, e.g. schizophrenia, anxiety, and suicide. Weekly use of marijuana DOUBLES an adolescent's risk of depression and anxiety. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)

In conclusion, we are strongly opposed to the introduction of commercialized Medical Marijuana businesses in our communities. No amount of revenue justifies endangering our children.

Sincerely,

MACOMB COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Anchor Bay Schools	Armada Area Schools	Center Line Public Schools
Chippewa Valley Schools	Clintondale Community Schools	Eastpointe Community Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools	Fraser Public Schools	Lake Shore Public Schools
Lakeview Public Schools	L'Anse Creuse Public Schools	Macomb Intermediate Schools
Mount Clemens Community Schools	New Haven Community Schools	Richmond Community Schools
Romeo Community Schools	Roseville Community Schools	South Lake Schools
Utica Community Schools	Van Dyke Public Schools	Warren Consolidated Schools
Warren Woods Public Schools		

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