



May 5, 2016

Dear Members of Legislative Leadership,

The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, the County Sheriffs of Colorado and the Colorado District Attorneys' Council are aware of how difficult it has been to bring into being a new set of laws on regulation of medical and recreational marijuana. We appreciate that creating a newly regulated industry takes time and effort. However, we are writing to say that local law enforcement both cannot keep up with the quantity and speed of constantly-changing marijuana law, as well as are experiencing other problems caused by lack of legal bright lines we need to enforce the law.

We are experiencing community impacts that include criminal psychotic episodes resulting from enhanced marijuana potency, a lack of resources and tools to address unlicensed home-grows, and numerous criminals are exploiting the unregulated system. Lastly, many communities have no marijuana revenue as they have banned dispensaries. However, because of our state constitutional and statutory framework allowing home-grows, these communities do indeed have community and law enforcement impacts and they don't have the resources to address them.

We understand that an interim committee on marijuana has been approved by legislative council. We implore this committee or further committees of the General Assembly to consider the following:

- 1) The constant change, and attempt to change, the laws and regulatory scheme for marijuana
- 2) The increase in scope of home growing operations
- 3) The edibles and their potency as it relates to overconsumption and hospitalizations
- 4) The doctors who continue to dole out irresponsible extended plant counts

We also make the following requests:

- 1.) A two-year moratorium on any changes to current law with regard to marijuana legalization, unless a strong public safety nexus is established. In the last two years, we have begun to gather data, train Colorado law enforcement, and create department

operational policies for agencies to handle legalized marijuana. The constant change will create inconsistencies with any trending data collection and makes it virtually impossible to have any training continuity for the more than 15,000 certified peace officers in the State of Colorado. It seems that regulation seems to change on a daily basis and this process must be slowed down.

- 2.) During the two-year moratorium, either the current Marijuana Interim Committee or some further taskforce should take a reflective look on both where we have come and the impacts that it has had on State, County and Local Municipality entities. This group should be asked to create a list of comprehensive recommended changes in marijuana law. We now have some structured and historical impact data which we can use to help guide us through a much more comprehensive decision making process.
- 3.) Law enforcement needs support for its current coordination efforts on marijuana. With the rapidly changing marijuana environment – 81 bills have been introduced in the last 4 years. In order to stay abreast the ever changing landscape, law enforcement has created two groups to assist us in responding to the new marijuana statewide legalization - the Law Enforcement Training Group and the Public Health and Safety Impacts Group. Both of these groups are currently staffed by the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, with no resources from the state. These two groups have become focal points for the sharing of information and coordination of actions with regard to the impacts from the state level legalization of marijuana. We believe, in order to fulfill the potential positive impacts that can arise from this two groups, that these groups should be funded by the state.
- 4.) Given the ever changing legal landscape, law enforcement is requesting funding for a position that would serve as a liaison to local government as a marijuana expert to work specifically with us on training, data gathering, following legislation, and helping to create the bright lines needed for adequate enforcement and fulfillment of the priorities of the Cole Memorandum.

As the professionals who are tasked by our communities to keep young people away from substances that can be abused, who are tasked with protecting our communities from organized crime, and keeping our roads and highways safe, we are concerned about the industry forces which are working to constantly chip away at regulations put in place to protect public health and safety. In the last year we have seen efforts to stymie regulatory efforts to address high levels of marijuana potency. We have seen introductions of legislation to advance unconstitutional public consumption both in special events and in pot clubs. We have yet to adequately address and give law enforcement the tools necessary to deal with illegal home grows.

Law enforcement cannot quantify the financial impacts of legalization on our associations and our members, but we do believe that a vigilant and focused effort in the 2016 interim, could bring about a positive change to assist law enforcement in addressing the concerns of our communities, who are begging for action related to some of issue areas listed above. We do believe, however, that the limited number of meetings and lack of state resources being devoted to this issue could very well leave us no better off headed into the 2017 legislative session. If the issue areas detailed in this letter are not addressed, we believe our state will continue to spiral toward further commercialization and the eradication of the bright lines we need to do our job. The voters approved a regulated industry and we are committed to working with you to ensure that we create an environment that balances the needs of all Colorado, but public safety and health issues must come first.

Thank you,



Rick Brandt, President
Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police



Chris Johnson, Executive Director
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