

Feb 8, 2023

Dear Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for accepting my testimony today.

My concerns relate to the marketplace in which grantees will operate:

- How will grantees manage overtures from the illicit market and the temptation to sell their excess on the illicit market?
- How will the OCM enforce regulations to protect grantees from robberies and violence?
- Where will underage users go to get safe, legal 'products' especially since that is the group which uses it the most? Underage users would not be allowed in stores and generally would not have the funds to pay the higher prices on the legal market.
- One can't ignore the fact that legalization would create the impression of safety and thus result in increased use; it normalizes the drug – a much more potent drug than most people realize. One which has a high propensity for abuse and adds to an already devastating addiction problem in society. The bill removes it from Schedule 1 status.
- How will grantees be protected from the “Big Pot” industries dominating the market? These big companies can absorb taxes, license fees and regulatory costs. Not so the smaller businesses.

The question remains: why and under what authority could the legislature legalize a dangerous drug?

There are over 20,000 peer-reviewed scientific research studies; 10 years of data from legal states that point to the very serious risks and real dangers from legalization to our youth, young adults, and society. Isn't it time to stop?

Linda Stanton