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To Legislators, Minnesota, 2023 Session

I was very disappointed in the failure of the majority of legislators to recognize the dangers and problems of "legalizing" marijuana.

On this Mother' Day, 2023, this mother mourns the loss of her son April 2, 2000 in a crash with a tree. My son's use of marijuana began in middle school. He was a very bright son with many talents. His grades began to drop. Teachers reported that he was late or absent to class. His behavior at home was out of control. He ran away. He was picked up by Mpls police jumping in front of cars hallucinating. The admitting psychiatrist said he was addicted to marijuana and other drugs. A judge got him into treatment. A public defender with a history of drug use himself, got another judge and got my son out again. I did not know where he was for about 9 months. Yes prohibition didn't work. If it had worked, he would have not been able to get it. He would have been protected.

Marijuana can trigger schizophrenia and psychosis, which may have been what was happening with my son. One in 6 who smoke it becomes addicted. Is it logical to put something on the market that addicts one in 6? How many other mothers and fathers have lost their precious children to marijuana? How many dropped out of school? How many went on to sell drugs?

It is illogical and with apparent ulterior motive that this substance is being declared legal by the Legislature. If any other substance with such potential for harm were being put on the market and commercialized, there would be an uproar. That marijuana businesses and the training to run them would be subsidized and aided by the state; that communities cannot opt out of having marijuana businesses in their communities is an effort unheard of for any other product. I fail to see how having marijuana businesses and subsidizing them in underserved areas is social justice. It is social injustice.

The Legislature is aware that marijuana is addictive and that it can lead to use of stronger drugs; They are aware because they allow for more treatment money for the disfunction they are causing with marijuana. It unacceptable for a state government to knowingly contribute to the ill health of its people and then think it is acceptable because they provide money for treatment. This is not the Social Justice that I and many others know. This is unethical.

What are the REAL reasons for the Legislature to take so much time for two years on this bill for a recreational product, ignoring the public health consequences, the potential cost to the state through law suits and increased healthcare costs? The Legislature does not have the required knowledge to judge whether a substance is safe or not. They are essentially practicing pharmacy without the required training or a license. To assume that you can reclassify drugs without extensive knowledge and training is without any desire to promote a just, healthy society. My disappointment in leaders I trusted in the past, is profound.

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