

## **Testimony against the legalization of marijuana – Feb 19, 2023**

### **Observations of the affects of marijuana usage**

I am writing to provide an account of observations I had made on a friend who I knew as a marijuana user.

I would see him a least once a year over an extended period of time (approx. 15 years). This person lived to be 56 years old and died of cancer some years ago. He was a long-term user of marijuana (several decades).

Because I saw him infrequently, there was noticeable mental deterioration from the previous time I visited with him. And the times I saw him at his home, the smell of marijuana was apparent and potent.

The mental deterioration would consist of incoherent sentences in his speech, difficulty in making a point, or not fully understanding anything I would add to a conversation. It never appeared to result in paranoia or other more serious mental conditions, but the mental sharpness and focus were diminished.

One does not know how the marijuana usage played in the deterioration of this individual's health due to the cancer, but the mental acuity certainly was impacted.

I strongly recommend voting against the bill to legalize marijuana.

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