

I'm Bob Dupont, I'm a medical doctor specializing in drug addiction. I helped start and ran the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the 1970's and was the affectionately titled White House Drug Czar under Presidents Nixon and Ford.

I'm joining this call for the Justice Department to speak out on states considering legalizing marijuana for two reasons. One – the drug has cut like a tornado across our nation – leaving death, wrecked lives and destroyed communities.

And two – because if voters legalize marijuana in Oregon, Colorado, Washington or any other state, they will face a constitutional crisis with the federal government that outlaws marijuana use.

Marijuana is now the root cause – the starting point for more than 60 percent of all drug abuse and dependence in the US. 61 percent. That's more than all other drug abuse combined. Marijuana is the number one reason that Americans entering drug abuse treatment programs.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine studied what would happen if states legalized Marijuana. The result should frighten every American. ASAM is a scientific organization – they reviewed the evidence and concluded that taxes from legalized marijuana would not even begin to pay for the extra drug treatment costs – let alone the priceless lives we'd lose to addiction and drugged and buzzed driving accidents. The study also says that legal marijuana would not meaningfully reduce drug-related violence or incarceration and that legal marijuana would be a serious threat to mental health and highway safety.

Even in states where “medical marijuana” is now legal, law enforcement has seen a dramatic jump in drugged driving accidents and arrests and soaring admissions to drug treatment centers.

We urge the Justice Department to remind Oregon, Washington and Colorado voters to know that the federal government will continue to enforce drug laws in their state even if they vote to legalize marijuana.

Dr. Robert DuPont
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