

## **Statement of IACP 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Richard Beary**

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am pleased to help explain why legalizing marijuana is a health and social disaster.

Folks who support legalization argue adding a marijuana tax will collect enough money to pay for treatment, prevention, enforcement and that it end drug-related violent crime. When voters considered California's Prop 19 in 2010, they said they'd raise 1.4 billion more each year in taxes. What they didn't tell you was about the 4 billion dollar cost of deadly marijuana-related car crashes alone .

California voters realized taxes wouldn't make up the difference and they wiselydefeated Proposition 19. I urge that voters in Oregon, Colorado and Washington do the same

To date, the FDA has not found smoked marijuana to be either safe or effective medicine for any condition. The FDA studies and decides which drug is safe. There is no other drug where voters decide that for themselves.

A number of states and localities that relaxed marijuana laws, now say they wish they hadn't. Crime is up in and around dispensaries and decriminalized zones. There are more drugged driving arrests, more admissions to treatment centers.

The simple truth is that legalizing narcotics will not make life better , or reduce crime and violence Law enforcement officers will have more challenges, not less. To suggest otherwise ignores reality.