



PRESS RELEASE

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Colorado, Oregon, and Washington Ballot Initiatives

**Marijuana Legalization Votes
Would Be Disastrous for Employers and Employees
and Undermine Workplace Productivity and Safety**

“A *disaster* for employers and employees in what is already a fragile and hurting economy” is how Mark A. de Bernardo, Executive Director of the Institute for a Drug-Free Workplace, characterized the ballot initiatives which will be voted on November 6 and could legalize marijuana in Colorado, Oregon, and/or Washington.

“Those who engage in illicit drug use are one-third less productive according to a Department of Health and Human Services report,” said de Bernardo at a press conference today.

“With the economy the #1 issue facing our country and the #1 issue in this election, enacting laws which would reduce the productivity of a significant segment of our workforce by *one-third* would further undermine our economy and impede our recovery,” stated de Bernardo.

“Legalization would mean *more* use, and more use would mean a greater detrimental impact on the workplace, *less* productivity, and a *less* safe working environment for millions of American workers,” said the Institute’s de Bernardo.

“Legalization of marijuana would undermine employer substance-abuse-prevention programs which have proven to be effective and are decisively in the common interests of *both* employers and employees,” he continued.

The Institute for a Drug-Free Workplace, a national coalition of employers, employer organizations, and substance-abuse-prevention organizations founded in 1989, strongly opposes Amendment 64 in Colorado, Measure 80 in Oregon, and Initiative 502 in Washington.

“Marijuana legalization would hurt society in so many ways, but employers and employees would be prominent among its victims. Not only are illicit drug users one-third less productive, but those who engage in illicit drug use are 3.6 times more likely to be involved in a workplace accident that injures themselves and/or another person or people,” stated de Bernardo.

“The cost of legalization is enormous – including and especially in our workplaces,” he continued. “The Institute urges the Obama Administration to oppose the voter initiatives in Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, and the voters in those states to vote ‘no’ on these ill-advised ballot initiatives.”

“Stoned employees and students are not the answers to what ails our American economy, and the legalization voter initiatives in Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, if passed, would mean more accessibility, more use, and less disincentive to drug abuse,” de Bernardo concluded.