



# NCADD

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND  
DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.

217 Broadway, Suite 712  
New York, NY 10007  
212-269-7797 212-269-7510 Fax  
[www.ncadd.org](http://www.ncadd.org)

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## **NCADD STATEMENT** **OPPOSITION TO LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA**

Americans don't vote on drugs. We can't put heart, cholesterol or cancer medicine on the ballot.

Yet, next month, voters in three states will decide whether to legalize a controlled and sometimes deadly drug.

Colorado, Oregon and Washington State voters may bypass overwhelming medical evidence, FDA warnings and peer reviewed scientific studies to decide whether to make marijuana legal.

I'm Robert J. Lindsey, President/CEO of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. better known by our acronym NCADD.

We're joining the call on the Justice Department to remind voters that they will face a crisis with the federal government if they do, indeed, vote to legalize the drug next month.

But our expertise is alcohol and drug addiction prevention, treatment and recovery.

Our local and state NCADD Affiliates talk with thousands of concerned family members and see patients every day who began their addiction saying "it's just marijuana – how can that hurt me?"

In fact it's hurting millions of Americans every day, directly and indirectly.

People arrive at work impaired – or don't make it in at all. Marijuana is a drug that is associated with serious emotional dysfunction, vocational and relationship problems, impairs driving and often leads to marijuana addiction, as well as addiction to even stronger drugs.

State government's considering legalization fool themselves into thinking it will cut crime and jail costs.

It doesn't.

1 in 10 marijuana users become addicted to marijuana. If they start as a teen – the risk jumps to 1 in 6.

More than 2/3rds of the 6½ million drug dependent Americans in treatment are marijuana dependent

Nearly 1 in every 5 alcohol and drug addiction treatment admissions today are primarily related to marijuana use.

Based on decades of experience, NCADD supports community-based prevention efforts that direct our time and resources to stopping drug use before it starts, intervening on early use and providing alcohol and drug addiction treatment and recovery support for those who become addicted.

We urge voters in Colorado, Oregon and Washington as well as the Justice Department to make these facts clear, and advise state's attorneys general that they risk a supreme court battle and federal enforcement if these law pass.

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### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC. (NCADD):**

Founded in 1944, NCADD and its National Network of Affiliates is a voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting the nation's #1 health problem- alcoholism and drug addiction and the devastating consequences of alcohol and other drugs on individuals, families and communities.

Last year alone, 730,900 people called NCADD and our National Network of Affiliates seeking help for themselves or a family member.