

# *Bismarck* Police Department

February 2, 2021

**From:** Dave Draovitch  
Chief of Police

**To:** Representative Robin Weisz, Chair, and Members of the Human Services Committee

**Subj:** HB 1420

I come before you today to seek your opposition of HB 1420. I and many other ND Chiefs have discussed this bill at length. After the discussion, I cannot support the edible marijuana portion of the bill. I have learned from other states that have legalized marijuana edibles there have been serious consequences particularly with child ingestions.

Since Colorado has had medical marijuana and recreational marijuana for so long their statistics are looked to in an effort to determine what may happen to other states if marijuana is legalized. I have been studying the most current volume of "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact" which is produced by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RM HIDTA) which was published September 2019. The report contains much information regarding the use of all marijuana by youth. Interestingly the report cites research published March 6, 2019 in the Journal of Neuroscience which indicates structural brain and cognitive effects can be observed with just one or two instances of adolescent marijuana use.

Colorado reports more high schoolers are consuming edibles than before. In 2017 the number of students consuming edibles was 10% which was up from 2% in 2015.

According to the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center the percent of marijuana exposures of children zero to eight years were exposed to edibles 18% in 2016, 66% in 2017 and 60% in 2018.

I realize there is language in HB 1420 which attempts to keep edibles from being ingested by children and I commend the efforts. The problem is adults need to keep the edibles secure. From January 2000 through June 2017 there were nearly 3,000 ingestions of marijuana by children under the age of six nationwide. This is all marijuana exposures not just edibles. "Over 70% of those ingestions were by children under the age of three and more than half received some form of hospitalization." This information comes from a study conducted by Sam Wang of Nationwide Children's Hospital. To me that is too much risk to our most important resource, our children.

Thank you for considering this information as this bill moves through the committee.

*Dave Draovitch, Chief of Police*

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If you have any questions feel free to contact me at your convenience. I may be reached at [ddraovitch@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:ddraovitch@bismarcknd.gov) or 701-223-1212.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Draovitch", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

DAVE DRAOVITCH  
Chief of Police