

Addiction Providers On HB 1501

Chairman Bell & Members of the Committee,

Addiction providers recognize the North Dakota Legislature is debating the legalization of recreational marijuana. It is the hope of providers that a robust discussion on how legalized marijuana will negatively impact our state and its citizens is included in the debate. Marijuana legalization is not without significant consequences and we ask the following items be taking into account;

1. Marijuana is an addictive substance and studies by the Journal of the American Medical Association have shown enacted recreational marijuana legislation have led to an increase in Cannabis Use Disorder. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 30% of cannabis users have a Cannabis Use Disorder. This disorder is often linked to severe mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, and psychosis. Furthermore, the impacts of Cannabis Use Disorder on those under 30 years of age can result in significant damage to ones brain which can last a lifetime.
2. Any discussion on marijuana legalization should coincide with discussion on significant investments and funding for Substance Use Disorder treatment services. Nearly 50% of addiction services are provided for a legal substance, alcohol. By making cannabis legal, providers expect to see a significant increase in demand for services and ask for a portion of the tax revenue from recreational marijuana be redirected to combat the problems created. Specifically providers request;
 - Similar to Gambling and Cigarettes, we initially request 1.5% of tax revenue collected up to \$10,000,000 to be directed into a Substance Use Disorder Fund and housed within the Department of Human of Services.
 - Spending of the Substance Use Disorder Fund should be directed to support SUD treatment providers,
 - All spending decisions of the Substance Use Disorder Fund should be decided by the North Dakota Legislature.

We hope there will be a thorough conversation about the symptoms of this legislation, as this bill will not be revenue neutral nor without human consequences.

Thank you for your time.,



Ty Hegland
Volunteer Chair (NDATPC)
President/CEO (ShareHouse)



NDATPC
3201 Fiechtner Dr. S
Fargo, ND 58103
ndatpcboard@gmail.com

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