

Addiction Providers On HB 1420

Chairman Lee & 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 an open discussion on how legalized marijuana will impact our state and its citizens is included in this debate. Marijuana legalization is not without significant consequences.

As we discuss the merits of potential legalization, there are a few points we hope legislatures will take into consideration as they debate HB 1420,

- 1. Addictive Substance:** A study published by The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in 2019 indicates that states that enact Recreational Marijuana Laws result in increased use and diagnosis of Cannabis Use Disorder. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reports that approximately 30% of cannabis users have a Cannabis Use Disorder.
- 2. Investing In Addiction Services:** Any discussion on marijuana legalization should coincide with discussion on significant investments and funding of or Substance Use Disorder treatment services. Currently, 56% of addiction services in North Dakota are provided for a legal substance, alcohol. By making it legal we will see an increase demand for services and ask for a portion of the state's revenue from marijuana be redirected to combat the problems that are sure to arise.
- 3. Workforce Issues:** Legalization will likely result in employers having an even greater difficulty in hiring and maintaining an adequate workforce due to testing and safety requirements. We need be thoughtful with this issue as it will effect every industry across North Dakota.
- 4. Cannabis Use and Mental Health Issues:** There are over 20,000 peer-reviewed research articles linking cannabis use to severe mental health conditions that range from depression and anxiety to psychosis. The National Institute of Health states that regular use can change one's brain in significant ways that impact one's learning and memory. This is especially true for those whose brains are still developing, which can continue until age 30.

Thank you for your time,



Ty Hegland
President/CEO
ShareHouse

