

03/15/2001
Chad Kaiser
Stutsman County Sheriff

RE: Opposition Testimony for HB 1420

Chair and committee members, I'm Chad Kaiser Stutsman County Sheriff and I'm in opposition of HB 1420. I am providing you with some concerns about HB 1420.

Not long-ago ND had on the ballot to legalize marijuana as an initiated measure. The voters defeated that measure by around 60%. The voters approved medical marijuana. So now we have a bill Infront of you now to allow personal use marijuana of up to one ounce. I feel the voters of ND have spoken and do not want to legalize marijuana this should be brought up to the voters to decide.

Some public safety concerns that other states are seeing that have legalized marijuana:

1. Increase health care/mental health costs
2. Increase DUI's with marijuana
3. Increase traffic crashes/fatalities with marijuana
4. Increase marijuana use in all ages from 12-28 years of age

Some Law enforcement concerns:

1. What happens to the K-9s in the state that are trained in detection of marijuana?
2. As in alcohol we have a measure of .08BAC for being impaired. We do not have a measure for marijuana currently.
3. Cost to LE on training more Drug recognition experts to detect impaired driving.
4. We have no crime lab certified road test for marijuana. Scales to determine if under 1oz.

You hear a lot about having an initiated measure and the problems that it brings. I do agree with this, but I believe this topic of legalizing marijuana should be the decision of the voters. If we are concerned about initiated measure then maybe our ND Legislature could bring forth an initiated measure to the public for a vote.

I hope you understand what some of these long term consequences are with HB1420 and VOTE NO on HB1420.