

Testimony - 03-31-2016 - VT House, on the legalization of the smoking of marijuana bill.

1<sup>st</sup> part - for those that VOTE YES, and support the VT law, as proposed, passed by the VT Senate, that allows the SMOKING of Marijuana - even allowing maybe, your fellow legislators to LIGHT UP in this very chamber (and, expose others to the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke cancer risk)... Please consider voting NO instead.

However, IF you VOTE YES, for legalizing the smoking of marijuana in VT, then please sign this pledge:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ swear, that by voting for this law allowing the smoking of marijuana, that I know of evidence of the fact that California Prop 65 list marijuana smoke as a cause of cancer (both for the user and due to 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke exposure), that I will:

- will pay 100% out of my own private pocket the full health care related costs (co-pay, and/or out of pocket costs potentially around \$12,000 per year for a family, **for multiple years**), and will not pass costs on to tax payers (medicaid, or single payer) or via premium charges (any exchange health care system).
- will visit ALL of those with the resulting cancer in the cancer wards, or hospice, at least once per week.
- will pay all sickness or death lost income related costs of any citizen or business, due to the cancer.
- will pay any and all sickness or death cause potential bankruptcy costs (personal or small business)
- will go to all resulting funerals, and will pay for all funeral costs.
- will visit the grieving families yearly, incl all children, explaining how sorry you are for their loss.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Part, Dear VT Legislators: In your consideration of supporting the legalization of the SMOKING of marijuana in Vermont, DID YOU KNOW, that in 2009, that California (via a annual investigation and response to a Prop 65 citizen mandate) listed marijuana smoke as known carcinogen (for both user, and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke), & where California stated that pot smoke shares 33 carcinogens with tobacco smoke? See:

[http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/docs\\_state/mjcrnr061909.html](http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/docs_state/mjcrnr061909.html)

**Why create a law for pot smokers, where the SMOKING of marijuana, causes cancer, AND where other methods of use, that might not carry the same cancer risk that smoking does (are not considered as an obviously more sensible, if proven safe, alternative)?** Just the formaldehyde in pot smoke (Prop 65 long list of what is in pot smoke) is a world-wide known carcinogen.

Does the law even have a package labeling requirement for cancer & other health risk WARNINGS (where, the irony is, that all cancer causing tobacco products have this warning, and GMOs will have a place on labeling too, but not a warning for use of marijuana)?

Suggestion: Keep smoking of weed (plant burning of pectin) NOT legal, Where instead of traditional criminal penalty, then offenders of the law suffer a another penalty, where they be required to attend serious heath education that focuses on all the psychological and physiological risks, AND where they need to suffer MORE via a **MANDATORY long community service sentence, where the lengthy time served is performed at, both, a cancer ward and at a hospice** (so that users can see where they will end up at if they continue to smoke pot - and for kids if they get caught smoking tobacco, the same penalty).

The sad thing is, that all the taxes the state hopes to collect with current version of the law (with smoking pot as legal), will not pay for the many years of chemotherapy (at least \$7,000 per treatment per Doug Baker who once served in this building) and other very expensive treatments... leaving non-user tax payers to pay via taxes that pay the the medicaid costs, or for non-user premium payers to pay for the pot smoker with cancer that has other insurance. That is not fair, make them pay for their own expensive treatments... same today that non-users of tobacco have to pay for the high cost of all the diseases that smoking tobacco causes (given that pot shares 33 of the same carcinogens, and the lack of research due to pot being not legal, we might find out that pot smoking causes more than just cancer).

-Here is the FULL Prop 65 (citizen mandated list) updated 12/2015

[http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\\_list/files/P65single061909.pdf](http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/files/P65single061909.pdf)

-- AND, Here is the 156 page, (pdf file link below) key document.

Titled - "EVIDENCE ON THE CARCINOGENICITY OF Marijuana Smoke"

Author - Reproductive and Cancer Hazard Assessment Branch Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (California Environmental Protection Agency).

[http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/hazard\\_ident/pdf\\_zip/FinalMJsmokeHID.pdf](http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/hazard_ident/pdf_zip/FinalMJsmokeHID.pdf)

Quote: "In summary, there is some evidence from studies in humans that marijuana smoke is associated with increased cancer risk. Studies in animals also provide some evidence that marijuana smoke induces tumors, with benign and malignant tumors observed in rats exposed via inhalation, malignant tumors in rats exposed via subcutaneous injection as newborns, and benign tumors in mice exposed dermally. Studies investigating the genotoxicity, immunotoxicity, and effects on endocrine function and cell signaling pathways provide additional evidence for the carcinogenicity of marijuana smoke. Finally, the similarities in chemical composition and in toxicological activity between marijuana smoke and tobacco smoke, and the presence of numerous carcinogens in marijuana (and tobacco) smoke, provide additional evidence of carcinogenicity".

There is no other way to say it, or write it, given the evidence, voting FOR allowing people to SMOKE (pot or tobacco), is voting for them to die (it is, at the least, a long term death by cancer sentence). It is morally wrong to think up ANY state legalized excuse to kill anyone. WRONG, to brush off their ultimate slow, painful, and disgusting death, in a way that their cancer death, becomes for them, and their loved ones, state supported, politically excusable collateral damage statistic (allowable by law, approved by legislators, signed by the governor), where those voting for the cancer causing law dismiss the importance of life, where instead, a citizen(s) cancer, or other pot smoking death(s), is OK due to a "greater good" excuse.

The Nazis used the same greater good logic to rationalize their "quick and easy" solution to a "perceived" problem (albeit their point of view, using their greater good logic, was far, far, more twisted, for sure).

This pot smoking bill is dollar driven eminent domain logic by the state. The state will profit due to taxes, others will profit growing/selling the pot, creating more jobs (death jobs). Where the state is, ultimately, given the evidence, validating, the taking away, of life itself. In all ways, history will see this as wrong.

Heck, why not carpet bomb them all, or increase speed limits to 100 MPH, because folks want drive fast?

Hopefully, we are a better society than that. Please do not pass pot smoking legalization bill, vote NO).