

SAM-VT Recommendations to House Judiciary Committee on H.170

- 1) The definition of marijuana does not refer to hashish, but hashish is referenced in several places in this bill. The definition of marijuana does not refer to concentrated marijuana. Chemical extraction is only prohibited when butane or hexane is involved. Concentrated marijuana in all forms should be prohibited. We request that the definition of marijuana for the purposes of this bill be amended to exclude the resin extracted from any part of the plant, and all marijuana concentrates and derivatives.
- 2) The amount of cultivated marijuana lawfully permitted under this statute is excessive, and doesn't necessarily correlate with the amount of mature and immature plants permitted for home grow. This discrepancy needs to be addressed, and the amounts adjusted.
- 3) Because of the difficulty in ascertaining the potency of edibles, these should also be excluded from the definition of marijuana for the purposes of this bill. The delivery system would therefore be limited to smoking and vaping of the marijuana plant only. Edibles and concentrates would be prohibited as they constitute marijuana concentrate and extraction.
- 4) Vermont must clearly not endorse marijuana use as harmless or desirable. Like tobacco, we request clear language in statute and implementation that discourages use. Specifically in certain populations - youth, pregnant women, etc.
- 5) Preventing or delaying the use of psychoactive drugs, alcohol, and tobacco remains critical to national public health. Successful substance-abuse prevention

leads to reductions in traffic fatalities, violence, etc. We request a comprehensive, rational, and fully funded prevention program to address the increase of use of marijuana that H.170 will inevitably result in.

- 6) Whereas the effects of legalizing marijuana have not been fully vetted and analyzed in Vermont, we request that before legalization takes effect in Vermont, a special commission is created to conduct a comprehensive review of the effects of legalization on the residents of Colorado, Washington, Oregon and all other jurisdictions , and the potential impact on Vermont.