



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 20, 2019

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
United States Senate
Washington D.C, 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington D.C, 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Senator Feinstein,

Major Cities Chiefs must voice opposition to S. 1028, the STATES Act. The STATES Act opens the dangerous floodgates of unlimited potency concentrates, high potency vapes, and pot candies in kid-friendly forms. By a vote of our entire membership, Chiefs and Sheriffs strongly oppose such legalization measures because our experience and contemporary research show that this is a dangerous trend. Even States that have legalized pot, such as Colorado and California, have over two thirds of local communities banning the sale, promotion, and expansion of these harmful substances.

We already see increased harms from marijuana in legalized States, and it is spilling over into other States as well. The number of fatalities due to marijuana impairment in Colorado and Washington State doubled after legalization, and fatalities from drug-impaired driving have now been reported to exceed drunk driving. A Kaiser-Permanente study of pregnant women in California showed 20% of young pregnant women were using marijuana during pregnancy, despite warnings by medical professionals of how it can harm the unborn child during a very sensitive time of brain development. 70% of pot shops in Colorado were caught recommending marijuana to pregnant women, and the State has still not taken any enforcement action almost a year later.

The STATES Act was written by the marijuana industry and for the marijuana industry. The bill completely ignores social justice or paying for the harms of expanded marijuana use, and instead gives the industry full access to institutional investors, including tobacco and opioid companies.

Please oppose the STATES Act because it will jeopardize the safety of the communities that we have sworn to protect.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo
Chief, Houston Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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