



Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government
Legislative Council

September 13, 2012

77LCR02

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Senator, Law School

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A Resolution in Support of Amendment 64, the Act to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol

Resolution History

Amendment 64 is a statewide initiative that will appear on this November's ballot. In summary, it:

- makes the private use and possession of limited amounts of marijuana legal for adults 21 and older;
- establishes a system in which marijuana is regulated and taxed similarly to alcohol; and
- allows for the cultivation, processing, and sale of industrial hemp.

More specifically, Amendment 64 creates a system of licensed marijuana retail stores and affiliated facilities regulated by the Department of Revenue. Localities will be able to ban or limit these stores and facilities through their elected representative bodies or by ballot measure.

In addition to sales tax, the General Assembly will be required to enact an excise tax of up to 15 percent on the wholesale sale of non-medical marijuana. The first \$40 million of revenue raised annually will be directed to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund. According to an economic analysis performed by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, passage of Amendment 64 will produce \$60 million annually in combined savings and revenue for Colorado's budget, and that number could double after 2017.

The initiative does not change existing laws – or impede upon the general assembly's ability to establish new laws – regarding driving under the influence of marijuana. It also allows employers to maintain all of their current employment and drug-testing policies. Amendment 64 does not change or repeal any existing laws and regulations pertaining to the medical use of marijuana.

Resolution Summary

WHEREAS, Government studies comparing the harms of marijuana and alcohol have concluded that marijuana is less addictive, less damaging to the body, and far less likely to contribute to violent or reckless behavior;

WHEREAS, approximately 10,000 Coloradans are arrested for marijuana possession each year, and arrests disproportionately impact communities of color;

WHEREAS, students who receive a single marijuana-related conviction are no longer eligible to receive federal financial aid;

WHEREAS, Colorado taxpayers are burdened by the substantial costs of investigating, arresting, prosecuting and jailing people for charges involving marijuana use and possession;

WHEREAS, regulating marijuana like alcohol for adults 21 and older will replace an uncontrolled underground market with a tightly controlled system of regulation, making it harder for teens to access marijuana and reducing consumers' to more harmful drugs;

WHEREAS, the federal government reports that marijuana use by Colorado high school students has decreased significantly since the state began regulating the sales of medical marijuana, whereas it has been steadily increasing nationwide;

WHEREAS, regulating marijuana like alcohol will eliminate a key source of funding for drug cartels and other criminal enterprises, and it will allow the state to redirect its limited law enforcement resources toward addressing violent and serious crimes;

WHEREAS, regulating and taxing marijuana will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in new tax revenues and law enforcement savings over the coming decade for state and local governments;

WHEREAS, the first \$40 million raised annually by a new state excise tax will be directed toward the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund;

WHEREAS, the regulation of industrial hemp will allow Colorado to corner the market on a highly versatile, sustainable, and popular agricultural crop;

WHEREAS, it will remain illegal to consume marijuana publicly or in a manner that endangers others, and it will remain illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, Colorado voters repealed alcohol prohibition prior to it being repealed at the federal level, and they have the right to repeal marijuana prohibition at the state and local levels;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Government, THAT:

Section 1.

The University of Colorado Student Government (“CUSG”) hereby endorses Amendment 64, the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act of 2012.

Section 2.

CUSG encourages student-voters at the University of Colorado and voters throughout the state to vote “Yes” on Amendment 64 in the upcoming election.

Section 3.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as CUSG promoting the use of marijuana or engaging in other illegal activities. CUSG encourages students to abide by all applicable campus rules, and local, state, and federal laws.

Section 4.

Upon adoption, this resolution shall be communicated to the public.

Section 5.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signatures of two Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Executives.

Vote Count

Brittni Hernandez
Tri-Executive

Colin Sorensen
Legislative Council President

Tyler Quick
Tri-Executive

Logan Schlutz
Tri-Executive

