



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

REGULATING MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN COLORADO PART 2

I have received hundreds of emails and phone calls from families in our communities regarding the legislation on medical marijuana. After the passage of Amendment 20, medical marijuana has become one of the fastest growing industries in Colorado. There are important legal and medical aspects of marijuana to be considered and then there are also the *illegal, dangerous and deadly aspects of marijuana*. Since the Obama administration restricted law enforcement personnel from arresting anyone growing, using or selling medical marijuana, the use and illegal trafficking of marijuana has escalated to a critical level placing our children and communities at risk.

This year we heard stories about caregivers and parents smoking marijuana in the presence of their children and in some instances forcing their children to smoke the drug. Since the Obama edict, I have seen medical marijuana outlets popping up in residential areas near schools, day care centers and grocery stores, which ultimately results in criminal activity and escalated risks for those areas. Although there are many legitimate outlets, there are also some that are nothing short of a storefront for the *illegal trafficking of the drug*. I whole-heartedly supported both SB109 and HB1284, bills that established new mechanisms to help clean up the shady and illicit aspects of the medical marijuana industry in our communities.

HB1284 address the licensing, registry, identification cards, physician's documentation, age and caregiver requirements, locations of outlets and dispensaries, edible, adulterated foods and local control authority. In brief HB1284 requires all persons involved in the cultivation, storage, transfer and sale of marijuana to;

- Apply for a license with the Colorado Department of Revenue,
- Pay associated fees for the licenses and be subject to the regulations and inspections,
- Be subject to criminal background checks and fingerprinting;
- Must be 21 years of age,
- Must be a resident of Colorado for a minimum of two years;
- 1000 foot minimum location restriction from a school, residential child care facility, college, university and seminary;
- Counties, cities and municipalities may chose to either allow or prohibit medical marijuana facilities in their jurisdictions!

It is crucial that anyone who is opposed to medical marijuana outlets locating in their areas notify their local city or county officials immediately. HB1284 provides oversight, regulations and restrictions that are necessary to protect the citizens and children of our communities. Please take the opportunity to visit www.gomarsha.org to view the details of HB1284, SB109 and contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this legislation. Thank you for the honor to serve you and your families!

Marsha Looper

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