

Dear Legislators Name:

Marijuana use among youth and young adults is a major health concern in Sullivan County. Research has found that youth use of marijuana is associated with:

- Neuropsychological and neurodevelopmental decline
- Poor school performance
- Increased school drop-out rates
- Increased risk for psychotic disorders in adulthood
- Increased risk for later depression
- Suicidal ideation or behavior

The Sullivan County Anti-Drug Coalition has studied the issue and voted to accept the position that:

Medical marijuana should not become legal in Tennessee unless it can be prescribed with a dose, duration and delivery system similar to other prescription drugs.

As policy and legalization efforts evolve and the availability of legal marijuana increases, it is important to consider how developing effective policies will support the prevention of marijuana use among youth.

Evidence based policies that can assist with preventing youth access and use of marijuana can look like:

- limits on the amount of marijuana an individual can purchase each day or possess
- Restrictions on advertisements, potency, or product design
- Requirements for quality standards and health warnings
- limits on the number or types of businesses allowed to sell the product
- Restrictions on whether home delivery from the retailer is allowed

These types of restrictions are supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Society of Addiction medicine; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration among others. These types of restrictions are the best policies to protect our youth from addiction. An indepth look at the issue can be found at (<https://www.samhsa.gov/resource/ebp/preventing-marijuana-use-among-youth>) which is SAMHSA's Evidence-Based Resource Guide Series called Preventing Marijuana Use Among Youth

I appreciate you taking the time to consider these issues and if you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me. I know you want to make Tennessee the best it can be for all Tennesseans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Name

Address

Phone

Personal email