

“Medical” Marijuana is Bad For Business, Bad For Employers, Bad For Workers

Many businesses and organizations want their employees to be Drug-Free, certainly not wanting them to show up for work under the influence of anything. Some companies drug test their new applicants and conduct random testing on current employees. These employers have a very important stake in the 2012 Question 3 Proposal to legalize the smoking of marijuana for medical purposes. If Question 3 passes, no longer will employers be permitted to exclude someone from hiring because of a positive drug test - marijuana, if that person possesses a Medical Marijuana Registration Card. No longer will they be able to terminate such a current employee.

Such a business should consider their increased costs as they are forced to accommodate such a “medical need”. The result will be increased workplace accidents, damage to equipment, lowered worker productivity and increased insurance costs. Retailers have got to realize that many of their customers don’t want to bring family members including small children into a store where some of the employees have the stench of marijuana smoke on their person and their clothes.

The economic impact is not restricted to employers. Good employees who show up for work everyday, not under the influence of anything will also lose. Typically businesses and organizations have only so much money that they budget for Salary Expense. If medical marijuana patients cost them more, the employer will have less total money to pay to their good employees.

And it is all so unnecessary. All major medical organizations oppose the use of smoked marijuana for the treatment of any medical condition. We already have safe pill forms of the same active ingredient as marijuana, but in dosages controlled to not get a person “high”. Such FDA approved prescriptions have been available in pharmacies nationwide since 1999! On the other hand, marijuana smoke contains far greater amounts of cancer-causing ingredients than tobacco smoke, 33 known carcinogens.

If these medical marijuana employees get cancer from smoking it, and some will, the increased costs will be passed off to other health plan members. And the company health plan can’t charge any surcharges to a plan member for smoking medical marijuana. Remember, voters will have deemed the smoking of marijuana as a legitimate medical treatment despite the best advice of the medical community.

Parents who have school children beware. Some teachers will have non-life threatening medical conditions for which some unethical doctor will recommend smoking marijuana. They will show up to teach our kids “high” on marijuana. Won’t that be lovely. And you can do nothing about it, NOTHING.

So what do you do next? Take this document to work with you. Use it as a base for discussions between employers and employees. Sit down and figure out your costs as described above and take into consideration that you will have to endure such costs year-after-year-after-year. Then do your fair share to fight this proposal. Vote No On Question 3 Campaign Committee needs and deserves your help. Go to

mavotenoonquestion3.com