

Letters to the editor



Recriminalizing marijuana is the wrong message

To the editor:

I have heard the concerns about recriminalizing adult possession of marijuana. As a parent, I agree that we need to do something about drugs. But I worry about our approach to the solutions and how we define exactly what "drug" we're worried about.

The drug most widely used by Alaskan youth and adults alike is alcohol. It causes hundreds of thousands of deaths each year.

It causes violent and irrational and often murderous behavior. And it destroys the fiber of the American family. Yet, we have not cried out for making alcohol illegal.

Even if it were true what the proponents say about the effects of marijuana use, those purported effects still pale in comparison to the documented and undisputed studies done about the physiological and mental effects of alcohol use and abuse.

So, explain to me about mixed messages we send to kids: that we would make it criminal for adults to possess marijuana, but it's OK to drink as much as you want?

Our message about alcohol is the most hypocritical message we send to our youth. I'm not going to compound that hypocrisy by voting to jail adults for having small amounts of marijuana in the privacy of their home. It's already illegal for kids to possess or use it or for adults to have it outside of the home.

If this ballot measure does pass, what existing programs or projects are we willing to give up to fund this?

Yours truly,
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