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Reasons to Oppose Marijuana Businesses in your Community

The new law also allows the 55 medical marijuana dispensaries to have a second location to sell marijuana to anyone 21 and older, with sales beginning January 1, 2020. Some marijuana businesses are telling local officials that communities could receive \$150,000 to \$500,000 a year from a 3% local tax on marijuana—that's \$5 million to \$17 million in marijuana sales per year!

- **Living near marijuana dispensaries makes youth more likely to use it**, according to a study by the Rand Corp. Young adults who live in neighborhoods with a higher number of marijuana dispensaries use pot more frequently than peers and have more positive views about the drug. (*LA Times, June 17, 2019*)
- **Marijuana dispensaries impact crime**, research shows. Property crime increased in areas that were adjacent to marijuana dispensaries. The three year study found that crime in cities like Denver happened in neighborhoods a tenth of a mile or farther from the dispensary, depending on population density. The study revealed the average property crime increased by 100 cases per month during the years when marijuana transitioned from medical to recreational in Colorado. It might be people going to the dispensaries--potentially looking for crimes of opportunity. (*Dr. Bridget Freisthler, Prof. and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development at Ohio State University's College of Social Work, 10tv, January 30, 2018*)
- **Public safety concerns. Illinois law allows on-site consumption of marijuana at dispensaries.** After people smoke marijuana, they will get in their cars and drive. Car crashes and DUI could increase in municipalities with dispensaries.
- **Municipalities prohibit marijuana businesses in other states.** Two-thirds of California municipalities prohibit marijuana businesses. (*Marijuana Business Daily, 2/18/19*)
More than 500 communities in Michigan have adopted ordinances to prohibit marijuana businesses in their towns. In Colorado, about 75% of the state's municipalities prohibit marijuana businesses. (*Detroit Free Press, Aug. 7, 2019*)
- **Study finds use of E-Cigarette triples odds teens will smoke marijuana.** Youth with a history of vaping had about 3.5 times higher odds for marijuana use versus those without such history. The connection between vaping and pot use is much stronger the earlier a vaping habit begins. The odds of using marijuana in youth with e-cigarette use were higher for adolescents ages 12 to 14.

The devices can easily be modified to allow users to vape marijuana. Vaping is a "gateway" to the drug. (*HealthDay, Aug. 12, 2019*)