



WASAVP Position of Opposition for Home Grow Operations

The Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention (WASAVP) is opposed to legislation that would allow marijuana home grow operations. Our position is based on the following:

1. **YOUTH ACCESS:** Home grows would increase youth access to marijuana, which is illegal for those under the age of 21. Grow operations in homes are likely to be located in areas that are not regularly monitored and are accessible to children.

2. **LACK OF REGULATION:** Home grows would be very hard to regulate, either by local law enforcement or the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB). The cost of adding more LCB enforcement officers would be significant, and local law enforcement agencies do not have funds to expand their work into regulation of home grow operations. In many parts of our state, LCB enforcement officers can be as far as 90 miles from communities they monitor. Local law enforcement doesn't have the officers or resources to monitor illegal marijuana activities.

3. **ENERGY GRID IMPACT:** Home grows would require large amounts of electricity. In 2018, David Gardner, Senior Horticulturist with consulting firm Colorado Cannabis Systems, found that 12% of the electric grid in Boulder supports growing cannabis. Home grows make the problem worse.

4. **LOSS OF TAX REVENUE:** The state would lose tax dollars. Home grown marijuana would likely reduce retail sales of marijuana. Voters legalized marijuana with provisions for funding prevention, treatment, and research. Loss of revenue due to home grows would reduce resources dedicated to these efforts.

5. **LOSS OF REGULATION:** Voters legalized marijuana believing that Washington State would provide regulation, price controls, and safety. Home grows will jeopardize regulation, price controls, and safety.

6. **DIVERSION TO BLACK MARKET:** The LCB and local law enforcement cannot effectively regulate the amount of marijuana a person would grow for their personal consumption. A single marijuana plant can reach both height and width in excess of five feet. Home grown marijuana would likely add to the black market, which continues to thrive in Washington State.

7. **EROSION OF PERCEPTION OF HARM:** Allowing home grows would further erode the perception that marijuana is harmful. Children living with marijuana growing in their homes would come to think of marijuana use as normal. Home grows will not encourage youth to make positive choices about their health and well-being.

8. HEALTH IMPACTS: A study presented by Canada's National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health lays out several health concerns for home grow operations:

- Access and Accidental poisoning
- Presence of marijuana plants, products, and waste in the home increase the risk that children, pets, or unaware adults may inadvertently consume marijuana with detrimental effects.
- Indoor Air Quality
 - Perhaps one of the greatest impacts that personal cultivation could have on environmental health relates to its multiple impacts on indoor air quality when grown in occupied spaces. Negative impacts include
 - Increased humidity that leads to fungi or mold in the home
 - Marijuana-related odors
 - Carbon Monoxide produced by generators used to enhance plant growth and increase yield.
- Pesticide use
 - Inappropriate use of pesticides that would need to be regulated.
- Radiation hazards
 - UV lights used to increase yield can increase risk of UV-related skin and eye damage.

http://www.nccch.ca/sites/default/files/Growing_at_home_EN.pdf

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