



November 19, 2018

Denver City Council
Special Issues Marijuana Committee
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Designated Consumption Area Distance Requirements Protect Public Kids

Dear Chairwoman Ms. Black, Committee Councilmembers Mr. Clark, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Herndon, Mr. Kashmann, Mr. New and Ms. Susman:

On behalf of the undersigned, we request that the Special Issues Committee uphold the Neighborhood Supported Social Use Task Force recommendation to remove distance requirements for Designated Consumption Areas (DCAs) from child care centers, and public pools and recreation centers, or to allow a waiver of the distance requirements.

The 1,000 foot distance requirements between Denver marijuana businesses and schools and child care centers have a long history of support by Denver City Council. The 1,000 foot restrictions from schools and child care centers were adopted by City Council for medical marijuana centers in 2010 and for retail marijuana stores in 2013. It was a sensible consensus decision by the Social Consumption Advisory Committee (SCAC) to recommend that Denver Excise and License apply the same distance restrictions to DCAs, especially given the emphasis on consistency of regulations for all marijuana businesses.

In addition, applying a 1,000 feet distance requirement to public outdoor pools and recreation centers acknowledges that these are also places where children congregate. This represents the priority, value and commitment that Denver holds to protect kids, especially those children that need additional support.

Regulated marijuana products sold in medical marijuana centers and retail marijuana stores are getting into the hands of Denver kids. The latest Marijuana Market Study commissioned by the Marijuana Enforcement Division of the Colorado Department of Revenue concluded that "there are individuals under the age of 21 who consume marijuana and it seems reasonable that the source for some portion of the marijuana consumed is from the regulated market."

Denver is the epicenter of marijuana commercialization in the state with 34% of all sales occurring in the city and county. According to the 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS), Denver high school students replied that marijuana tops the list for substances "sort of easy" or "very easy" to get. They said marijuana is easier to get than alcohol, cigarettes or pharmaceuticals, according to HKCS. In fact, 56% of Denver high school respondents said marijuana was sort of easy or very easy to get.

The 2017 HKCS provides other distressing comparisons. Denver high school students are more likely than high school students across the state:

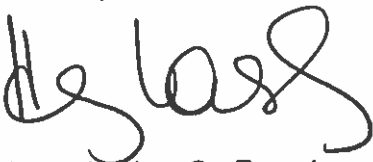
1. to have tried marijuana (14% more likely)
2. to have used marijuana in the past 30 days (almost 8% more likely), and
3. to have vaped marijuana (42% more likely).

And the reverse also holds true. Denver high school students are less likely than high school students across the state:

1. to perceive moderate or great harm from regular marijuana use (14% less likely), and
2. to think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana (5% less likely).

Denver City Council represents ALL Denver citizens, including our youngest members. In consideration of the facts concerning youth marijuana use in Denver, we believe it is vital that the distance restrictions between DCAs and schools, child care centers, and public pools and recreation centers remain in effect without right of waiver.

Sincerely,



Henny Lasley, Co-Founder and Executive Director
Smart Colorado

Attachment: Petition Support

Cc: Mayor Michael Hancock
Councilmember Albus Brooks
Councilmember Rafael Espinoza
Councilmember Stacie Gilmore
Councilmember Robin Kniech
Councilmember Paul Lopez

Councilmember Debbie Ortega

Ashley Kilroy, Executive Director, Dept. Of Excise & Licenses

Molly Duplechian, Deputy Director of Policy and Administration

Allan Salazar, Chief of Staff

Kristen Bronson, City Attorney

