



November 12, 2018

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

Attention: Council Aides for Councilwoman Kendra Black: Kathy Gile, Tate Carpenter, Liz Zukowski

Re: Designated Consumption Area Distance Requirements

Dear Chairwoman Ms. Black and the Special Issues Marijuana Committee:

The Denver Partnership for Youth Success is a community coalition working to address three of the nation's top substance abuse prevention priorities: alcohol, marijuana use, and prescription drug misuse among youth in Denver.

Our city has been the epicenter of marijuana commercialization in the state with 34% of all sales occurring in the city or county. According to the 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS), approximately 20.9% of students used marijuana in the past 30 days. Additionally, 53.5% of high school students feel it would be sort of or very easy to get marijuana if they wanted.

The 1,000-foot distance requirements between Denver marijuana businesses and schools and child care centers adopted for marijuana retail stores in 2013 help us create an environment that supports the wellbeing of Denver youth. Designated Consumption Areas within close proximity to young people has the potential to decrease adolescent perceptions of risk of harm and increase the perception that marijuana is easy to access.

As a coalition that has representation from many diverse community organizations around Denver, we are concerned about youth marijuana use. The existing laws and regulations are effective and allowing waivers may adversely impact youth health outcomes. Please contact Alexander Limas (alexander.limas@dhha.org) if you have any questions regarding the matter.

Sincerely,

The Denver Partnership for Youth Success

Working together to create an environment where all Denver youth have the opportunity to succeed.
www.DenverYouthSuccess.org

