

Good afternoon, Councilmembers.. My name is Hagan Archer I am a member of the Student Advisory Board for Colorado Student Leaders Institute. I am also a resident of Park Hill in Denver and attend East High School. Since the legalization of marijuana, the presence of this drug has become unavoidable. I've walked into classrooms that are stinking from the aroma of marijuana; I've seen drug deals aimed at students; and, witnessed peers consume marijuana. My experience would suggest that since the legalization of marijuana, teen consumption has gone up significantly, despite what any survey might say.

I know there is a setback of 1000 feet for schools, rec centers, day care centers and other places where there are minors present – or family activities – for marijuana social clubs. I'm not a supporter of these businesses. But, why is this a hindrance to the booming industry? They have permeated our neighborhoods, why can't we have just a small amount of space left open? Every afternoon for the last 6 weeks, I have gone to a practice facility for baseball. It is in a warehouse area in Northfield. There are a number of dispensaries and legal, I assume, grow facilities in the area. The stench when I get out of my car is sometimes overwhelming. Imagine if that is the case every day around my school, where I spend a majority of my time each day? Or, at the Carla Madison or Central Park Rec Centers where I work out and swim? Will that same overwhelming smell be a constant part of my experience...and every other student's? And, will the accessibility be expanded? I can promise you that age limits have done nothing. It's not manageable. Setbacks are.

The teens involved with our state's governor's school program, COSLI, have strong and adamant feelings against the legalization of this drug in our state. It has changed our school, work, play and life experience in Colorado. Please, just give us this little bit of space.

Thank you.

