

NEW POLL: Majority of New Jerseyans Oppose Outright Legalization

Stephen Reid [REDACTED]

Thu 12/20/2018 2:07 PM

To: Stephen Reid <sreid@pointbeach.org>;



**For Immediate Release:
December 20th, 2018**

**Contact:
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New Poll: 62% of New Jersey Voters Support Other Policy Options Than Legalization

1 in 3 New Jersey residents less likely to support elected officials if they accepted contributions from the pot industry

(Trenton, New Jersey) - According to a new poll, 62% of New Jerseyans are opposed to the outright legalization of marijuana when given the full range of policy options. Additionally, 1 in 3 registered New Jersey voters were less likely to support political candidates if they received donations from the pot industry. Four in ten voters in the state agree that if marijuana was legalized in the state, their top concern would be access of the drug to minors.

The poll, conducted by IPSOS, found that only 38% of New Jersey voters support legalizing marijuana sales. One in four voters (25%) support keeping the current policy of medicinal marijuana and 26% support the decriminalization of the drug for adults. 10% of voters favor full prohibition of the substance.

"This poll should serve as a wake-up call to New Jersey lawmakers, for multiple reasons," said Stephen Reid, Executive Director of New Jersey Responsible Approaches to Marijuana Policy (NJ-RAMP). "Not only do most New Jerseyans want to see our marijuana laws stay the way they are, but they are also very concerned about exposing our kids to this mind-altering drug."

"This poll continues to prove that, given the option between all possible options of drug policy, people want to see something other than full legal sales of marijuana," said Dr. Kevin Sabet, president of Smart Approaches to Marijuana. "Other polls on this subject offer a false dichotomy that the only options here are either full legalization or full prohibition and that could not be further from the truth."

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About NJ-RAMP:

NJ-RAMP is a coalition of individuals and associations who believe that the health, safety and economic consequences of recreational marijuana legalization far outweigh the perceived social benefits. The grassroots organization consists of medical doctors, community groups, treatment providers, drug prevention professionals, business owners, law enforcement officers, parents, religious leaders, and many others. For more information, visit www.nj-ramp.org.

NJ-RAMP, a project of SAM Action, 400 N. Columbus Street,
Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 22314

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URGENT: Tell These Senators to Vote NO

Stephen Reid <[REDACTED]>

Fri 10/5/2018 4:09 PM

To: Stephen Reid <sreid@pointbeach.org>;



Dear Supporter:

The bill to legalize commercial marijuana in New Jersey is imminent. The Senate committee is going to move on this bill any day... **WE MUST TAKE ACTION.**

There are a handful of Senators on the committee that are still on the fence and they need to hear from you that legalizing marijuana in New Jersey would be disastrous. Follow the steps below to make sure your voice is heard above smokescreen from the marijuana industry.

Step 1: **CALL these MUST-WIN offices** (see talking points below):

Senator Nia Gill: (973) 509-0388
Senator Nellie Pou: (973) 247-1555
Senator Paul Sarlo: (201) 804-8118
Senator Brian Stack: (201) 721-5263

Step 2: **CALL these supporters** and ask them to call these four offices. Go to **www.NJ-RAMP.org/calls** to find the list of people and phone numbers you need call!

Tell them:

- **Do NOT legalize pot in New Jersey.** The bill under consideration is a disaster: it would allow for 99% THC pot edibles, candies, dabs, "consumption rooms," delivery services, and Big Pot - hurting families, kids, communities, drivers, and businesses.
- **In states that have already legalized** the drug, there has been an increase in drugged driving crashes and youth marijuana use.
- **Since Colorado legalized marijuana**, first time youth pot use by youth is now #1 in the nation and more than 50% higher than the national average.
- **More minority kids** are being arrested for pot in CO than before legalization.
- **Please oppose the legalization** of recreational marijuana in New Jersey. Don't let Big Marijuana profit at the expense of our communities and families.

Marijuana legalization is not inevitable, but it will take a group effort to protect public health, safety, and commonsense. Please call these senators and other supporters as soon as possible.

[Click here to forward this to a friend to increase our impact.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Reid,
Executive Director for NJ-RAMP at
info@learnaboutsam.org

www.njramp.org

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2/5/2019

URGENT: Tell These Senators to Vote NO - Stephen Reid

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Leading NJ Psychiatric Associations Oppose Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

Jeanette Hoffman <jeanette@marathoncomms.com>

Tue 8/14/2018 8:51 AM

To: Stephen Reid <sreid@pointbeach.org>;



Leading NJ Psychiatric Associations Oppose Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

New Jersey Psychiatric Association and NJ Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Call on Lawmakers to Oppose Legalized Pot

TRENTON - The New Jersey Psychiatric Association and the New Jersey Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (NJCCAP) this week called on New Jersey lawmakers to oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana in the Garden State.

"Before passing legislation that will impact the lives of thousands of New Jersey families, New Jersey legislators should consider the public health consequences of legalizing recreational marijuana, particularly on our young people," said Dr. Wil Yeung, NJCCAP President. "There are many well-documented adverse effects of marijuana use such as altered brain development, cognitive impairment, decreased brain activity in areas of the brain and a significant increase in risk of developing psychotic symptoms or disorders. Adolescents with habitual use have a greater risk of decreased academic performance, increased school dropout rates, decreased overall educational attainment and decreased workplace productivity."

"As we've seen in other states, the rate of children under 21 using pot will increase if it's legalized for recreational use," Dr. Yeung continued. "The adolescent and teen brain is still in a process of critical development, making it that much more vulnerable to drug use. The use of marijuana, particularly in adolescents, increases not only the risk of addiction to marijuana, but also the risk of addiction to other substances."

New Jersey Psychiatric Association President Randy Gurak, M.D. said, "Legalizing marijuana for recreational use is terrible public health policy that puts New Jersey's families at risk. There are known carcinogens and toxins in marijuana and the long-term risk for developing cancer is unknown. The use of synthetic cannabinoids has led to multiple emergency room visits for paranoia, anxiety, and psychosis. There have also been multiple reports of increased driving accidents and fatalities linked to driving while under the influence of marijuana."

The National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institute of Health recently released results from their "Monitoring the Future" study that showed more 12th graders than ever admitted they would use marijuana if it were legal. Specifically, one in four 12th graders thought that they would try marijuana, or that their use would increase, if marijuana were legalized. Prevalence of annual marijuana use also rose by a significant 1.3 percentage points to 23.9% in 2017, based on data from 8th, 10th, and 12th grades combined.

NJCCAP and NJPA join a growing number of organizations and grassroots coalitions that oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana, including law enforcement groups, other medical associations, prevention organizations and parent groups. For more information, log onto www.nj-ramp.org.

About NJ-RAMP: NJ-RAMP is a coalition of individuals and associations who believe that the health, safety and economic consequences of recreational marijuana legalization far outweigh the perceived social benefits. The grassroots organization consists of medical doctors, community groups, treatment providers, drug prevention professionals, business owners, law enforcement officers, parents, religious leaders, and many others. For more information, visit www.nj-ramp.org.

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