

The Harms of the legalization of Marijuana

Amy Mitchell – Founder of Anchor Her

Written Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 135

Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

My name is Amy Mitchell, and I am the Founder of Anchor Her. I work with women that are in recovery from drugs and alcohol. In 2009 I was personally prescribed Oxycodone and Oxycontin from my doctor, back when they thought increasing dosage and access would do no harm. I was harmed in many ways by their decisions and lack of protection and policies.

I work with a lot of people in recovery from drug addiction. While they are on probation and getting recovery support, they do not smoke marijuana during that time to avoid going to jail. However when they get off of probation I have seen many of them go back to smoking marijuana stating that it is not their “drug of choice” and they need it for their anxiety. The next conversation is usually, “ I messed up”, I started smoking weed thinking that is all I would do, then it lead me back to heroin and so on.

For years people have said that marijuana is a gateway drug that leads people to use more dangerous drugs, like heroin ect, why are we not listening? I asked one of my groups of recovering drug addicts their opinion on marijuana being legalized, they unanimously said that it is a bad decision and it will ruin more and more lives.

People will drive impaired without thinking twice. I had a client that got in a car wreck when she was impaired after smoking marijuana. She killed another person in that wreck. Now someone lost a daughter, sister, mother. And my client is trying to wade through all the guilt she carries without using drugs to numb it.

We cannot be a society that numbs everything. I 100% support taking care of your mental health and doing self-care. But I am telling you that we will have a numb society that does not deal with the root of their problems if we keep legalizing marijuana. It is not a cure all. It should be monitored. My clients have told me that they thought in early use of marijuana that it helped them be creative. The problem was that they would never do anything with the ideas, they wouldn't act on them, they had trouble concentrating and after they were using it more regular they wouldn't even feel like showering and other basic daily duties.

Marijuana also harms our single mothers that have little ones to look after. Marijuana has caused their children to be late for school. Moms driving these kiddos while impaired. I could keep going on with reasons why legalization of marijuana is a bad idea. Please don't legalize.

Amy Mitchell