

Op-ed: Let's be more careful about legalizing marijuana

Health experts: It's a slippery slope

Northern Kentucky Regional Drug-Free Communities Coalitions

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In order to protect the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the drug free and prevention coalitions of Northern Kentucky wish to educate our communities and legislators with regard to marijuana. It is our opinion, based upon the facts presented below, that marijuana use should not be legalized in any capacity.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has NOT recognized or approved the use of marijuana as a safe and effective drug for any indication. Marijuana is still a Schedule I drug, and as such, is not able to be effectively researched for medicinal purposes.

Ultimately, the legalization of marijuana will lower the perception of risk.

A lower perception of harm or risk historically leads to an increased usage among youth. Across the state of Kentucky, the perception of harm for marijuana continues to decrease with time according to the Kentucky Incentives for Prevention (KIP) Survey.

Every state that has now legalized marijuana for “recreational” use started by legalizing marijuana for “medical” use.

This is a particularly slippery slope in a region and state already so overwhelmed by substance use and abuse.

We encourage our citizens and policy makers to be mindful of our youth when making decisions that will be so impactful on our next generation.

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