

Lauren Davidson

From: Robert Johansen <robert.j.johansen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 9:00 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Misleading statements by pro-grow operators

Dear planning committee,

I am in a private group discussing our options as concerned residents in regards to a Marijuana Shop in Tonasket. It is a Not In My Back Yard NIMBY movement. In short, the group was infiltrated and inundated with a bunch of pro-MJ propaganda... I took this excerpt to share with you, in case anyone mistakenly believed it be true

David Arlotta

Marijuana is curing cancer while radiation treatments are causing more cancer and killing people. I choose life
LikeMore · 9 hours ago

This is my response:

David, I actually practice the art of medicine and MJ does not cure cancer. There was a National Cancer Institute NCI statement that cannaboids kill cancer cells...but they had to clarify the statement that there is no way to deliver it to the cell... So does Clorox - but you do not see the bleach industry get excited about that curing cancer. So does arsenic and tar, one of many ingredients in cigarettes, but no one would agree that smoking cigarettes cure cancer. Inhaling marijuana can lead to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD, just like cigarettes.

Evidence based medicine has proven that MJ does alter brain chemistry in the adolescent brain development, a process of development that continues into the mid-20s. And if used chronically can lead to severe uncontrolled anxiety when stopped. This is leaving many of of my patients / prior chronic users of MJ to seek out benzodiazepines or self medicate with alcohol because traditional anti-anxiety meds don't work.

That said, MJ is not federally recognized, neither is the labor/wages that support the industry - so no social security is being paid on the behalf of these workers - So who will burden the cost of their healthcare later in life?

Medical MJ does help with symptom management.. Anorexia, nausea, anxiety and pain. Again, I know because I manage cancer stricken patients as part of their overall medical team. Please take it easy on the "cure" word as I have lost friends and patients to cancer who hang on that word.

Radiation can cause later cancers - like too many X-rays, CT exams or sun exposure... Radiation itself though is not intended to "cure" cancer... It destroys tumor cells that then spread throughout the body like dandelion seeds... In addition to radiation, people need to take chemo therapy - it can kill these free floating cancer cells, as well as work on the primary tumor. Oh so many times though it kills non cancer cells too... That is the point, it is poison, taken intentionally to cure the "now" problem of cancer - this is proven to "cure" cancer - it is hell and MJ makes it less hell in States where medical MJ is legal.

Robert "Cool Cat" Johansen; PA-C, CACP

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