

Testimony of Carolyn Short against SB 1015

March 14, 2011

Dear Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please do not join other states in the chaos of "medical" marijuana or decriminalization of marijuana. Contrary to the claims of the pro-drug lobbies, marijuana is NOT harmless and its proliferation brings increased crime, traffic fatalities, and teen marijuana use.

Marijuana advocates have spent years trying to convince people that marijuana is good medicine, contrary to the advice of doctors, the FDA and our countrys top medical societies (including the American Medical Association, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, American Glaucoma Society and the American Cancer Society, among others). Recently, the American Glaucoma Society issued a WARNING to glaucoma patients not to use marijuana because it can actually make their condition worse, yet medical marijuana laws (including SB 1015) continue to include glaucoma as a condition for which marijuana can be recommended. Who is protecting glaucoma patients? Oncologists warn cancer patients that marijuana suppresses the immune system. Doctors who specialize in treatment of AIDS warn patients that marijuana not only suppresses the immune system, but also can increase the risks of Kaposis Sarcoma. Other doctors warn of a link between marijuana use and psychosis, particularly among young users. Marijuana advocates dont care about sick people. They are just using sick people as a smokescreen to legalize marijuana.

Not only is marijuana not a good medicine, it actually has serious health consequences concentration, motor coordination, memory, and reproductive and immune systems all are adversely impacted by marijuana use. And, marijuana is highly addictive! Recent studies also suggest a relationship between psychosis and marijuana use, particularly in young people.

We know the medical marijuana industry cannot be regulated. Once the camels nose is under the tent, the incredibly well-funded and organized Marijuana Policy Project, NORML and the ACLU inundate regulatory authorities, cities, towns and states with objections and lawsuits, all at great economic cost to taxpayers.

Those hurt most by these disingenuous laws are our young people. Teen marijuana use is substantially higher in medical marijuana states. Apparently, teens are buying the lie told by pro-drug advocates that marijuana is not only harmless, but good for you. Please stand up for our kids!

"Medical" marijuana is a sham. It is a lie told to gain the sympathy of compassionate people and a cruel hoax on sick people who should be listening to their medical doctors.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely

Carolyn Short, former Chairman

Keep AZ Drug Free (the ballot opposition committee opposing Prop 203)