



New York State Association of Chiefs of Police Inc

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Legislative Memoranda Of Support/Opposition

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

S4041B
Senator Duane

A9016
Assemblyman Gottfried

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An Act to amend the public health law and the general business law, in relation to medical use of marijuana.

This memorandum is submitted on behalf of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, opposing Senate bill S4041B and Assembly bill A9016, which amend the Public Health Law and the General Business Law, in relation to medical use of marijuana.

The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police strongly opposes this measure due to its drastic negative impact upon public safety. Ultimately, it will serve to significantly increase the burdens upon law enforcement and taxpayers in general. The widespread availability of marijuana through caregivers will make it easier to obtain and therefore pose significant problems for the youth and other citizens in our communities. Scarce law enforcement resources will need to be diverted to address the subsequent harm caused by the increased availability and use of marijuana.

There are also many other concerns to consider, such as: street level dealers attempting to sell to people entering the provider's place of business; smoking marijuana in public areas; increased "driving under the influence of marijuana" violations; attempted burglaries of marijuana establishments; robberies of clients as they leave dispensaries after purchase; adverse impact on neighboring businesses; lack of effort and/or ability on the part of caregivers to control unlawful or nuisance behavior in and around the business; increased loitering and associated nuisances; complaints that other illegal substances are being sold by authorized practitioners; and a greater risk of someone of age purchasing it for minors.

Legalizing the sale of "medical marijuana" by allowing medical personnel to sell the controlled substance would only contribute to an already existing and growing crime problem related to excess drug use in our communities. Legalization in other states has led to increased potency and availability of marijuana with a directly related increase in serious medical and social problems.

The effects of these problems are long term and costly in nature. Methods by which to regulate such businesses as well as law enforcement efforts to combat the negative impacts on communities would impose a great burden upon already scarce law enforcement resources.

Based upon the foregoing, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police strongly oppose this measure and urges that it not be enacted by the Legislature.

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.