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To: [LEG Cmte-EAICcomment](#)
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Public Comments for Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Date: 25th September 2023 13:47

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Subject:

marijuana consumption lounges

Comment:

According to the American Lung Association, marijuana smoke has the same particulates, chemicals, and carcinogens as tobacco, if not MORE. And it comes with additional harmful health effects. Marijuana joints produce 3.5X the secondhand smoke of a cigarette (Ott, et al., 2021). Smoking marijuana increases risk of lung cancer by 2X (Callaghan, et al., 2013). Vaping cannabis has been shown to be worse for your lungs than tobacco (Boyd, et al, 2021). There is no SAFE level of secondhand smoke and allowing consumption lounges would expose workers and the public to indoor air pollution – something we eliminated back in 2009 with the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act. Secondhand smoke would expose workers in a consumption lounge to higher risks of cancer, heart conditions, and other harmful psychological effects, not to mention potentially being intoxicated by the time they leave their shift. Marijuana takes weeks to leave someone’s system and impairs driving for up to 4.5 hours (Marcotte, et al., 2022). How would consumption lounges ensure that their customers weren’t driving home intoxicated and putting innocent lives in danger? DUIs from marijuana use are already on an upward trend in our state and cannabis is now present in 21% of Montana DUI blood samples. Allowing marijuana consumption lounges would surely increase the numbers of DUIs. I urge you to put the health of the public first and think through all of the risks before considering marijuana consumption lounges.

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