



STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 25

SB 445  
Marijuana Notices  
March 25, 2015

SB 445 will require medical marijuana facilities and marijuana retailers to post on their premises of retail location notice of the potential harmful effects of marijuana on pregnant women, fetuses and breastfeeding infants.

According to the Communicable Disease Summary News in 2014, marijuana can have adverse effects on development. Use during pregnancy has been linked to low birth weight, preterm labor, higher NICU admissions, and developmental delays. Marijuana use can have an effect on the developing brains of infants and children. THC concentrates in breast milk, and may produce sedation, reduced muscular tone and poor sucking in infants.

More research needs to happen, but from a public health perspective, we must warn users of marijuana of the possible harmful effects in the control of brain maturation and emotional responses. More research is needed, however, to disentangle marijuana's specific effects from other environmental factors, including maternal nutrition, exposure to nurturing/neglect, and use of other substances by mothers. Establishing marijuana's effect on prenatal development is important, because roughly half of the U.S. pregnancies are unplanned, with the rate considerably higher for teen and young adults, so many women may use marijuana without knowing they are pregnant.

SB 445 is a common sense bill and I urge you to pass this out of committee and to the Senate floor. Thank you for considering this bill.

