



LINN COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

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Linn County Supports HB 2313-1

As we move forward with the legalization of Marijuana in the state of Oregon we must also take into consideration the results and effects of this law on our youth.

- Current research on adolescent brain development indicates that teenage years are one of the most critical and susceptible times for a youths' brain. The brain is building new pathways getting ready for adult executive functioning and the protective coating along those pathways is greatly reduced. The teenage brain is at higher risk for damage when chemicals are introduced into the body such as drugs and alcohol.
- This is not the same marijuana as was available in the 60's and 70's with the THC content only being about 4%. Today's marijuana has anywhere from a 15% THC content for street level marijuana to 80% THC content in some medical marijuana dispensaries. With processing the THC extract can reach 90% in the concentrated form called "Dabs".

I see this issue most commonly in educational settings. Youth may not be in current possession of marijuana but either admit to being under the influence or demonstrate obvious signs of impairment. The only recourse the school has is to suspend or expel the youth, it is a violation of school policy but not a violation of any law. This can impact the student in a couple of ways. Violations of the law generate a referral to the county juvenile department who would screen the youth which could lead to a referral for a drug and alcohol evaluation, provide education or provide other services identified by the worker. The juvenile department would have the ability to support the young person's sobriety by conducting random urine analysis tests to make sure they have discontinued use and provide consequences if they fail to comply such as lose of driving privileges or a fine. Schools are more likely to re-admit a youth into school knowing there are additional supports and structure in place for the youth.

Support our youth by supporting HB 2313

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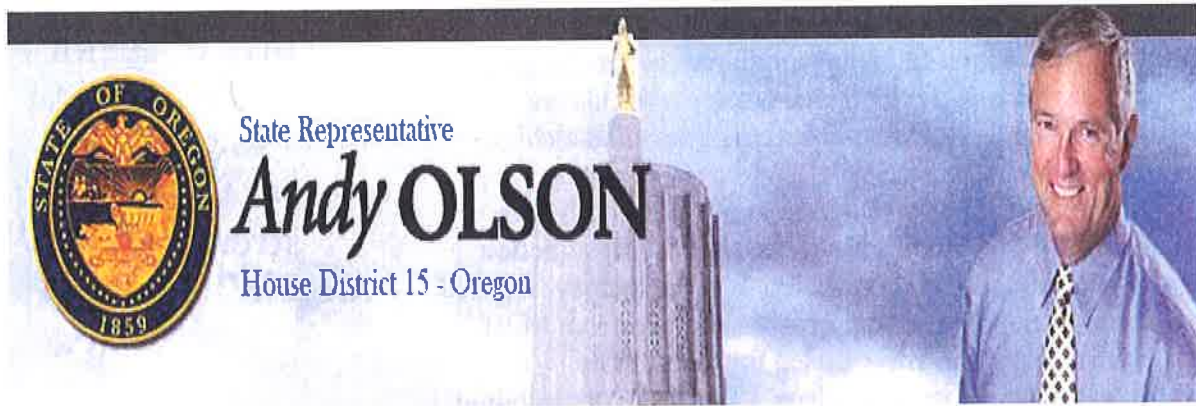
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Weekly Review

HB 2313 - Minors and Marijuana

Just ask a middle school or high school teacher their thoughts on students and marijuana. They will bend your ear! There are plenty of stories where teachers struggle working with a student who is *loaded* on marijuana. Unfortunately, there is no law that allows schools to act accordingly.

So...when Torri Lynn the Linn County Juvenile Director and Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist asked if the legislature could address this problem, I began crafting legislation that would give a tool to school administrators, teachers and law enforcement. At the same time I wanted to create a path for the student to address a possible addiction problem.

HB 2313 mirrors the law for Minor in Possession of Alcohol, but applies it to Marijuana. The bill prohibits a person under 21 years of age from attempting to purchase or possess marijuana. Additionally, the bill allows the court to order a person to undergo assessment and treatment.

During a public hearing on HB 2313, Torri Lynn shared the following testimony in front of the House Committee on Judiciary:

"Current research on adolescent brain development indicates that teenage years are one of the most critical and susceptible times for a youths' brain. The brain is building new pathways getting ready for

Quick Links:

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Oregon Legislature
Bill Tracking

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Notable and Quotable:

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

-Winston Churchill

adult executive functioning so the protective coating along those pathways is greatly reduced making the teenage brain at higher risk when chemicals are introduced into the body such as drugs and alcohol."

Last week, during a presentation in the Ways & Means subcommittee on Human Services, staff from Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) shared how the agency planned to use some of the revenue received from M-91. About \$1.36 million will be used for community prevention and recovery services. I found the presentation very interesting since I'm assigned to the Joint Committee on M-91. The following slide was presented:

**"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength."
-Corrie Ten Boom**

Why this is important

6 th Grade	8 th Grade	11 th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-day use rate -- 1.2% • "Easy" or Sort of Easy to get marijuana -- 6.4% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-day use rate -- 7.9% • "Easy" or Sort of Easy to get marijuana -- 29.8% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-day use rate -- 18.7% • "Easy" or Sort of Easy to get marijuana -- 66.0%

- Effective prevention strategies need to be applied across the age spectrum.
- As youth progress to 8th and 11th grade, they are less likely to see marijuana use as harmful and are more likely to try it.

Source: 2014 Oregon Student Wellness Survey



Having reviewed the presentation, I asked the presenter, "How does Oregon compare to the rest of the states for marijuana usage in the 6th, 8th, and 11th grades?" The response was alarming, "Oregon is off the charts!"

As our state moves forward with the implementation of recreational use of marijuana, I am very concerned of the impact M-91 will have on our youth. I am hopeful that HB 2313 may have some impact for youth to consider twice before using the drug. HB 2313 passed the House floor with a vote of 60-0.

Why this is important

6th Grade

- 30-day use rate – **1.2%**
- “Easy” or Sort of Easy to get marijuana – 6.4%

8th Grade

- 30-day use rate – **7.9%**
- “Easy” or Sort of Easy to get marijuana – 29.8%

11th Grade

- 30-day use rate – **18.7%**
- “Easy” or Sort of Easy to get marijuana – 66.0%

- Effective prevention strategies need to be applied across the age spectrum.
- As youth progress to 8th and 11th grade, they are less likely to see marijuana use as harmful and are more likely to try it.



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

- Faye Fagel, President
- Torri Lynn, President Elect
- Joe Ferguson, Treasurer

OJDDA
609 W. 10th St
Medford, OR, 97501

OJDDA Supports HB 2313 A5 Amendments.

OJDDA supports HB 2313 in its original form to help close a loop hole in the marijuana laws which have been in existence for years. OJDDA also supports the amendments including language to provide an avenue for the Department of Corrections to be able to access vital information for inmates who have juvenile history or juveniles convicted under Measure 11 who are transferring from an Oregon Youth Authority facility to a DOC facility to if everyone is in agreement.

As we move forward with the conversations about the legalization of Marijuana in the state of Oregon we must also take into consideration the results and effects of this law on our youth.

Current research on adolescent brain development indicates that teenage years are one of the most critical and susceptible times for a youths' brain. The brain is building new pathways getting ready for adult executive functioning so the protective coating along those pathways is greatly reduced making the teenage brain at higher risk when chemicals are introduced into the body such as drugs and alcohol.

This is not the same marijuana as was available in the 90's with the THC content only being about 4% - 7.5%. Today's marijuana has anywhere from a 10-16% (National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIDA website) THC content for street level marijuana to 80% THC content in some medical marijuana dispensaries. With processing the THC extract can reach 90% in the concentrated form called "Dabs".

ORS 475.864 Unlawful possession of marijuana or marijuana product makes it illegal for any person to possess marijuana. This will obviously change for adults over the age of 21 years old but what of our youth.

We need to continue to limit access to marijuana for persons under 21 years of age.

HB 2313 makes it illegal for a youth to be under the influence of marijuana. There is not currently a law which makes this illegal. This bill will close the gap in statute.

ORS 475.864 (3) (c) Unlawful possession of less than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana is a specific fine violation. The presumptive fine for a violation under this paragraph is \$650.00.

This issue most commonly comes up in the educational setting. Youth may not be in current possession of marijuana but either admit being under the influence or there are obvious signs of them being under the influence. The only recourse the school has is to suspend or expel the youth, it is a violation of school policy but not a violation of any law. This can impact the student in a couple of ways. Violations of the law generate a referral to the county juvenile department who would process the youth and which could include referring for a drug and alcohol evaluation, provide education or other services identified by the worker. The juvenile department would have the ability to support the young person's sobriety by conducting random urine analysis tests to make sure they have discontinued use and provide consequences if they fail to comply such as lose of driving privileges. Schools are more likely to re-admit a youth into school knowing there are additional supports and structure in place for the youth.

Support our youth by supporting HB 2313-1.

For additional information, please contact Lara Smith, (503) 804-9750