

Psychoactive Drugs

Over 50 years ago Linus Pauling and I calculated that cigarette smokers reduce their life expectancy by 10 years for every pack per day smoked.

They don't just die of lung cancer. It has been known for decades that smokers increase their risk of heart disease and many other degenerative diseases.

Recreational marijuana and other drug use is worse. Burning weeds in your mouth will kill you just like cigarettes. But smoking psychoactive drugs causes mental problems too.

Members of this legislature are concerned about the mental health crisis. But throwing taxpayer money at the problem can only cause minor improvements. Treating drug addiction is extremely hard and government programs are notoriously inefficient.

So why is the state of Oregon promoting drug use? This state collects money from drug dealers for licensing and a fraction of the sales price. The state of Oregon is in essence a co-owner in a semi-legalized drug market.

The Oregon legislature should make clear that it is against these drugs and refuse to collect revenue from this source.