

Alcohol vs. Drugs

From the Office of
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Senate District 2

Yesterday, we voted on a bill related to alcohol shipments to Oregonian's homes. Concerns were raised about the prospect that a minor might have access to this alcohol if regulations aren't properly followed.

Alcohol abuse by underage (and overage) individuals is definitely a concern. But drug abuse is a much bigger problem.

I left a book on your desk a few weeks ago about the serious problems caused by marijuana use. Marijuana is harmful, but especially harmful to a small fraction of users who go on to develop severe mental problems which can lead to violence.

The violence in this country is caused by bad individuals, not by the weapons they use.

We just saw reports that a deranged individual plowed a U-Haul truck into pedestrians in New York. News reports indicate he had been stopped for illegal marijuana possession a few days prior to the incident (which could easily have originated from Oregon like so much of it does).

While we don't know the facts of this case, it is a common theme to find marijuana or other drug use by the criminals involved in these kinds of crimes.

I again suggest that the legislature stand firmly against the recreational use of drugs and refuse to accept money from their sale.