

Western States Panel Discussion

Major Frank O'Neal

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Allowable amount of THC vaping doses for 14 day period under S150 and H3361

- That comes out to 2,050 doses in a 14 day period. 80% purity.
- That is 146 doses per day during that 14 day period.

South Carolina Voters Approve Medical Marijuana Question On Democratic Ballot

**Do you support passing a state law
allowing doctors to prescribe medical
marijuana to patients?**

**The advisory ballot measure, which is not
binding and does not change any laws,
was [approved](#) by an 82% to 18% margin.**

Senate Medical Affairs

September 22, 2021

Conversations concerning Covid-19 treatment (Ivermectin)

- Senator Brad Hutto – “I think it would be bad for us to tell doctors how to practice medicine. I think it would be bad for us to tell pharmacist how to practice pharmacy.”
- Senator Danny Verdin – “If the medical profession has been undermined, do you think that we as politicians possibly meddling in business that we have no business.”
- Senator Mia McLeod – “We are talking about patients who are driving their own treatment options based on what they read, not scientific evidence.”

S.150 – Compassionate Care Act

The proposed amendment is attached and includes us as a being a recipient of some of the funds that will be collected for services. Our goal has been to include this amendment to ensure that if the bill does pass that we are able to provide the additional services that will be necessary for education and treatment. Moving forward, our goal is to protect this amendment, which means we will not be opposing the bill. It's important that we are all on the same page of educating on the dangers of marijuana use and protecting the language that includes funding for the 301 system. If an agency is continuing to provide information to the legislature or provide testimony, I ask that you share this with Donny, Shannon, and myself so we can have any needed conversations about what this means to the field as a whole.



**South Carolina
Law Enforcement Division**

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
29221-1398

*Henry D. McMaster, Governor
Mark A. Keel, Chief*

Tel: (803) 737-9000

June 14, 2021

Ms. Laura S. Aldinger
BHSA
421 Mission Court
Irmo, SC 29063

Ms. Gayle Aycock
LRADAC
P. O. Box 50597
Columbia, SC 29250

Ms. Sara Goldsby
DAODAS
P. O. Box 8268
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Laura, Gayle, and Sara:

I can't tell you how deeply disappointed I am by your decision that the BHSA will not be opposing the legalization of marijuana in South Carolina. As we look at the use of marijuana by youth in South Carolina and throughout the country, we see that marijuana is the number one reason for adolescent addiction treatment. Legalization efforts across the country have greatly reduced the perception of harm by teens to the point where most teens believe marijuana is safer than alcohol or cigarettes. This is disturbing. Marijuana has become increasingly dangerous in the last 15 years as higher potency marijuana is consumed more frequently. From 2006-2014, emergency rooms saw a 50% increase where patients were diagnosed with a psychological disorder. Worse, the number of patients with psychosis that also had a secondary diagnosis of Marijuana Use Disorder tripled.

The proposals in South Carolina also allow for the vaping of THC, one of the most preferred methods of ingestion by teen users. To compound this, the amounts allowed within a fourteen-day period are equal to 146 doses per day, using oil at an 80% THC concentration. The bill also allows for paraphernalia to be sold at dispensaries, including pipes and bongs. There is nothing medical or compassionate about our youth vaping highly potent THC. My fear is that legalization efforts will only increase marijuana use in all ages in S. C., but specifically in the 12-17 and 18-25 age groups.

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June 14, 2021

I have spent 43 years in law enforcement standing up for those who can't stand for themselves. This is why I have consistently voiced my concerns about legalizing marijuana in any form. Of course, I am compassionate to those who are suffering from debilitating diseases and illnesses. However, this is why I support continued clinical trials, research, and forms of medicine that are legally obtained, FDA approved, prescribed by a physician, and dispensed by a pharmacist. This is what medicine is in the 21st century. This bill does not follow this model, which is why, in my opinion, this bill is not about medicine. It's about legalizing marijuana in South Carolina.

In closing, BHSA and SLED have been partners for at least eight years in opposing the legalization of marijuana in South Carolina. I would like your organization and all directors under the Act 301 umbrella to remain united with law enforcement on this issue. We need to be educating everyone as to the detrimental impact that increased addiction and the increased use of marijuana by teens will have on public safety, our work force, and the overall mental health of our state.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue further with your entire BHSA Board and the 32 Directors in the 301 system.

Yours very truly,



Mark A. Keel, Chief
S. C. Law Enforcement Division

MAK/dwh

“In closing, BHSA and SLED have been partners for at least eight years in opposing the legalization of marijuana in South Carolina. I would like your organization and all directors under the Act 301 umbrella to remain united with law enforcement on this issue. We need to be educating everyone as to the detrimental impact that increased addiction and the increased use of marijuana by teens will have on public safety, our work force, and the overall mental health of our state.”



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SLED OFFICE OF CHIEF

June 28, 2021

Mark A. Keel, Chief
S.C. Law Enforcement Division
P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, S.C. 29221

Dear Chief Keel:

Thank you for your letter dated June 14, 2021, regarding BHSA's stance on the opposition of the legalization of medical marijuana. As mentioned in our phone conversation on June 22, 2021, BHSA continues to oppose the legalization of medical marijuana and revisited the subject at our April 28, 2021, BHSA Membership Meeting to validate our ongoing position statement.

Since 2015, BHSA has consistently voiced opposition to the legalization of medical marijuana, in any form. BHSA should continue to oppose the legalization of marijuana in any form, however, should it pass, funding for prevention, intervention, and treatment services should be included as they are with other legalized addictive substances (such as alcohol and gambling). Considerations will be given to the current political climate as strategies are determined to voice our concerns on this legislation as it navigates through the process. Funding is vital to assist with the expected increase of services.

Your letter indicated that BHSA will not be opposing the legalization of medical marijuana, however BHSA holds firm in its position as indicated in the aforementioned position statement.

BHSA continues to educate on the harms of marijuana use, as we know through our membership of the local alcohol and drug abuse authorities' prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support services for all substance misuse disorders. The use of marijuana can have lasting negative effects on the developing brain. Additionally, we know that there is a correlation with traffic crashes in states where marijuana has been legalized.

I hope this clears up any misinformation that was shared with you and we can continue to keep open lines of communication and a shared vision.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Laura S. Aldinger
BHSA Executive Director

Gayle Aycock
CEO, LRADAC / President, BHSA

“As mentioned in our phone conversation on June 22, 2021, BHSA continues to oppose the legalization of medical marijuana and revisited the subject at our April 28, 2021, BHSA Membership Meeting to validate our ongoing position statement.”

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Email from Phoenix Center Director Rebecca Maddox

This is a reminder that we have few folks who will be joining us on March 25th at 3:30 to share personal stories of why they use medical marijuana. Attached are the questions that we plan to ask them. If you have any additional questions that you want to submit for consideration, please send to me as soon as possible. Please note that the SC participants will remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of the conversation. One participant is from California where it is legal. Also note that these individuals were referred to us by our partner agencies and are not paid advocates for medical marijuana. These are just normal people who are using marijuana to address a medical issue.

We want this listening session to be comfortable for everyone including the participants so it is ok to interact with them. However, this is not a public hearing and we will not be fact-checking their comments during the meeting. We want to understand their suffering so we can better advocate for their needs in the way that is most appropriate for our organization. Thanks for your help with this.