



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY
STEVEN F. LUKAN, DIRECTOR

U.S. Department of Justice
Attorney General Eric Holder
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Cc: U.S. Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

31 August 2013

To the Department of Justice and the Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

As the Drug Policy Coordinator of Iowa, I am concerned by the recent U.S. Department of Justice directive to defer enforcement of federal law in states that have chosen to relax marijuana laws in conflict with the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

Deprioritizing the prosecution of large-scale marijuana distribution and sales in certain states threatens to deprioritize the health and safety of Iowans and other Americans.

According to the Iowa Department of Public Safety, 36% of the marijuana seized in Iowa drug interdiction stops in 2012 originated in Colorado. Clearly allowing large scale marijuana sale and cultivation in one state has negative impacts on others.

Marijuana is a serious drug and needs to be treated as such. In Iowa, over 60% of our youth who are in drug treatment programs cite marijuana as their primary drug of choice. I believe it is a drug that holds great harm for our youth population, depriving them of the opportunity to achieve their full potential in life.

The new Department of Justice directive sends further mixed messages to Iowa youth that experimenting with Marijuana is OK.

As already shown, I believe this policy will make more illegal marijuana more accessible to more people, including children, in our state. We know that when children experiment with marijuana they are far more likely to go on to use drugs like heroin or prescription pain killers.

Reducing drug use and its consequences in America takes strong law enforcement, effective prevention and access to quality treatment. I urge the Department of Justice to reconsider the weakening of federal anti-drug law and fully enforce the federal CSA.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven F. Lukan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Lukan" clearly legible.

Steven F. Lukan-Director Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy