



WHAT'S AT STAKE: WORKER SAFETY ***Legalizing Marijuana for Recreational Use Increases Accidents in the Workplace***

A Big Push for Big Profits by a Few Rich Investors: The \$30 billion commercial marijuana industry has written a law to legalize recreational use and retail sales of marijuana in Ohio and also paid to get it on the November 7 statewide ballot.

- **It's Driven By Corporate Investors:** This plan was bought and paid for by a handful of marijuana company investors who want to change Ohio's law for their personal gain, regardless of the damage it causes Ohioans or the risks it creates for Ohio's workers and employers.
- **It's Anti-Competitive:** The law would give a handful of companies the first right to sell marijuana for recreational use and try to keep out their competitors.
- **It's About Big Money:** With up to \$4 billion in sales potentially up for grabs, according to an Ohio State University study, these investors see big dollar signs and want to corner the market.

Legalizing Recreational Marijuana Also Creates Big New Risks for Workers and Employers

- **More Employees Come To Work High:** Marijuana positivity rates in the workplace are up in legalized states, which is a risk for employers, other workers and customers. Positivity rates are up 48% in Nevada, 14% in Massachusetts, and 11% in California.¹
- **High Employees Hurt Themselves & Coworkers:** Marijuana-impaired employees cause 55% more industrial accidents and 85% more on-the-job injuries.² This not only creates big new risks for all employees, but also impacts workers compensation. In Wisconsin and Michigan, high employees injured on the job see their workers comp benefits reduced or even eliminated.³
- **Workers Comp Rate Uncertainty:** More accidents impact ratings and rates. One Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation Board Member has already said he expects it will drive up rates.⁴
- **Absenteeism Goes Up:** Employees who use marijuana have 75% higher absenteeism.³ It is already hard to recruit and keep workers—and find ones who can pass a drug test. Legalizing recreational marijuana will make this harder as employers in other states have experienced.
- **Employee Testing—Costly, Legally Questionable & No Guarantee:** Daily testing of all employees is expensive and operationally burdensome, and can capture use as far back as 30 days. In some states such testing and “cannabis discrimination” have been deemed illegal. Furthermore, no tests currently exist that can measure the degree of an employees' impairment.

Bottom Line: Recreational marijuana makes workplaces less safe and drives up costs for employers, which is why both the Ohio Business Roundtable and Ohio Manufacturers Association oppose it.

¹ newsroom.questdiagnostics.com/2015-06-09-Illicit-Drug-Positivity-Rate-Increases-Sharply-in-Workplace-Testing-Finds-Quest-Diagnostics-Drug-Testing-Index-Analysis

² www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/how-does-marijuana-use-affect-school-work-social-life

³ <https://www.hni.com/blog/bid/91413/how-medical-marijuana-insurance-issues-affect-your-work-comp-policies>

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⁴ LINK TO BRT RELEASE