

County of Santa Clara

Office of the District Attorney

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Jeffrey Rosen
District Attorney

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1273 – (Vehicles: Marijuana) - Support

Dear Senator Skinner:

I support SB 1273 because it will deter underage marijuana use while driving and enhance the state's ability to more precisely keep track of the number of persons driving while under the influence of marijuana and other types of controlled substances.

From 2007 to 2014, the number of nighttime weekend drivers in the U.S. with marijuana in their system increased nearly 50%. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety conducted a study in Washington State (which legalized recreational use of marijuana in 2012) that found the percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes who recently used marijuana more than doubled from eight to 17 percent between 2013 and 2014. Now that recreational marijuana is legal in California, it is all the more important to conform the laws regarding persons under 21 who use marijuana and drive with those discouraging underage drinking and driving. SB 1273 does this.

Roadside tests for marijuana use are increasingly being improved and used in California and have been shown to be accurate in other countries. SB 1273 accommodates these developments and will ultimately help save lives.

The new language added by the statute to the driving under the influence statutes will allow the state to track the number of persons arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana and other drugs and will ultimately improve our ability to determine how to best allocate resources made available by Proposition 64.

I strongly encourage your support of SB 1273. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey F. Rosen".

Jeffrey F. Rosen
District Attorney
Santa Clara County

JFR/dm

c: Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Jerry Hill, California State Senate