



California POLICE CHIEFS Association Inc.

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March 13, 2018

Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Bill 1273 (Support)

Dear Senator Hill,

The California Police Chiefs Association is pleased to support SB 1273, which would prohibit an individual under the age of 21 from driving under the influence of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Similar to driving under the influence of alcohol, this bill would make a person under 21 years of age who has any detectible amount of THC in his or her body subject to the same license suspension as if he or she was found with blood alcohol concentration of 0.01% or more.

In the State of Washington, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reported a 9% increase between 2013 and 2014 in the number of fatal car accidents whose drivers had recently used marijuana. In Colorado, according to the Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) organization, the total number of drivers who were found to be intoxicated with marijuana and involved in a fatal traffic accident increased 88% from 2013-2015. Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 66% “between the four-year averages before and after legalization,” according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA, 2017).

Beyond the concerns regarding driving while intoxicated, we are equally concerned with increased cannabis consumption by minors. Unfortunately, there are very little – if any – substantive sanctions in law to address youth use. By setting this standard, we will be sending a clear message that this product is dangerous on the developing mind.

For these reasons we are proud to support this measure. For additional questions, please contact Jonathan Feldman at jfeldman@californiapolicechiefs.org.

Sincerely,

Ed Medrano
President

Jonathan Feldman
Legislative Advocate