



# CHRIS KAPENGA

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

For Immediate Release  
February 10, 2021

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## **Consequences of Legalizing Marijuana Would be Disastrous for Wisconsin**

**Madison, WI** — Senator Chris Kapenga (R - Delafield) issued the following statement:

“The legalization of recreational marijuana is not in the best interest of Wisconsinites. There are serious health and societal issues that need to be understood, and Governor Evers shouldn’t sacrifice the safety of the people of Wisconsin—particularly our children—in pursuit of the mighty dollar.

“The Governor is adamant we follow science when it comes to COVID-19 but turns a blind eye when it comes to legalizing a drug that has no FDA approval—which all other medicines are subject to.

“What happened to the honorable goal of keeping the people of Wisconsin and our kids safe?

“The National Academy of Medicine points to a significant correlation between marijuana and psychosis, schizophrenia, and other psychotic disorders, particularly in teenagers where the risk of developing schizophrenia increases three fold.

“In addition, an investigation published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association, Pediatrics* concludes, “Cannabis use disorder is common among adolescents and young adults with mood disorders and is associated with an elevated risk of self-harm, overall mortality, and death by unintentional overdose and homicide in this already vulnerable population.”

“What happened to the honorable goal of keeping our communities safe?

“In Colorado, the crime rate increased 11 times faster than the nation since the legalization of marijuana, including a nearly 20% increase in violent crimes.

“At the same time, drugged driving went from killing roughly one person every 6.5 days to every 2.5 days, since legalization was passed. A similar increase happened in Washington state, where the number of traffic deaths due to marijuana-impaired drivers doubled the year after recreational marijuana was legalized.

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“The Governor is sending a dangerous message of permissive drug use when parents, teachers, medical professionals, and law enforcement are fighting against drug use.

“Legalizing the use of marijuana is not good for Wisconsin. If the use of marijuana really was harmless, an affirming dope-using vote by the legislature wouldn’t be necessary.”

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*Senator Kapenga represents the 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District, which covers most of central Waukesha County and Lake Country.*