

From: Coriell, Scott [Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 5:29 PM
To: Springer, Darren
CC: Pepper, James; London, Sarah; Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: FACT CHECK - CONF PRIV DO NOT DISTRIBUTE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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This is where I got the 80k users number. I did some extrapolating so we should check with health to make sure it's right.

http://healthvermont.gov/adap/drugs/documents/marijuana_data_brief.pdf

On Jan 5, 2016, at 5:11 PM, Springer, Darren <Darren.Springer@vermont.gov> wrote:

The good progress we've made reforming our criminal justice system must continue. It shouldn't surprise anyone that when we take away people's driver's license for non-driver related offenses like underage tobacco purchases, that we end up with more Vermonters with suspended driver's licenses than we have enrolled in our State Colleges. I want to recognize our innovative State's Attorney T.J. Donovan who worked with us to create two driver restoration days in Chittenden and Windsor Counties. The stories I heard from lower income Vermonters standing in line for redemption made me ask: Why are we creating a permanent economic disability and making it impossible for people who want to improve their lives? I ask you to make Driver Restoration Days unnecessary by passing legislation that ensures non-traffic related offenses don't lead to Vermonters losing their ability to get to work or drop their kids at school.

The outdated War on Drugs has failed, and there is no greater example than our marijuana laws. That's why Vermont took steps to change our criminal penalties and to institute a well-regulated medical marijuana system that now serves 2,400 Vermonters. This careful approach shows that we know how to regulate marijuana thoughtfully and cautiously, avoiding the pitfalls that have caused other states to stumble where Vermont succeeded.

But the black market of drug dealers selling marijuana for recreational use is alive and well, serving over 80,000 Vermonters who reported using marijuana last year. These illegal dealers couldn't care less how young their customers are or what's in the product they sell, or what illegal drugs you buy from their stash, much less whether they pay taxes on their earnings. That's why we will work with you to craft the right bill that thoughtfully and carefully eliminates the era of prohibition that is currently failing us so miserably. To do it right, we must do it deliberately, cautiously, step by step, and not all in one leap as we legislate the lessons learned from the states that went before us. I will insist on three things before I'll sign a bill.

- First, a legal market must keep marijuana and other drugs out of the hands of underage kids.

- Second, the tax imposed must be low enough to wipe out the black market and get rid of the illegal drug dealers.
- Third, any revenue from legalization must be used to expand drug prevention programs and strengthen law enforcement capacity as well as improve our response to impaired drivers under the influence of Marijuana who are already on Vermont's roads.

I understand that the Senate will take the lead and I look forward to working with Senator Sears and the Senate Judiciary Committee to construct the bill I just described. I know the legislature has a history of tackling difficult issues with respect and care, the Vermont way. I believe we have the capacity to take this next step and get marijuana legalization done right.

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Please note: My email address has changed to Darren.Springer@vermont.gov.