

# **JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON PRESCRIPTION MEDICAL CANNABIS MEETING**

**Georgia Gwinnett College  
Lawrenceville, Georgia  
October 1, 2014**

**Gregg Raduka, Ph.D., LPC, ICPS  
Georgia Marijuana Abuse  
Prevention Collaborative**





**45 YEAR HISTORY**  
**501 (C) (3) PRIVATE NON-PROFIT**



# THE GEORGIA MARIJUANA ABUSE PREVENTION INITIATIVE



- 1 Prevent and reduce marijuana abuse in Georgia among youth and young adults
- 2 Prevent and reduce marijuana abuse in Georgia's Workforce

*The gulf has never been greater between the scientific understanding of marijuana's harms and the public's misunderstanding of those harms.*

*But prevention can change that.*



# GEORGIA MARIJUANA ABUSE PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE

(85 member organizations and 19 individual members)



# LOOKING FOR THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

- Applauding GA legislators' earnest desires to help children
- Not opposing Charlotte's Web Oil
- Supporting Governor's Epidiolex/GRU Program



# LOOKING FOR THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

- Getting medicinal ingredients in marijuana to children with intractable epileptic seizures at the earliest possible date
- Protecting all of Georgia's children from the harms marijuana can cause



# GEORGIA STUDENTS DON'T LIVE IN A BUBBLE

**2013- 2014 Georgia Student Health Survey  
18. 2% of Georgia's High School Seniors  
Smoked Marijuana in the  
last 30 days**



# THE MARIJUANA MANTRA



No responsible adult wants to see a teenager get stoned and try to operate a motor vehicle.

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No caring parent wants their child to become addicted to marijuana.

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No employer wants to see their employees come to work under the influence of pot.



# MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN GA: A Tale of Two Motives Compassion & Greed



# THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

**Narrow Medical Marijuana Bill**



**Broad Medical Marijuana**



**De Facto Recreational Marijuana**



**Recreational Marijuana**



# COOK CONSULTING LLC



**Matt D. Cook, Manager**  
**Cook Consulting LLC**  
[www.cookconsulting.org](http://www.cookconsulting.org)  
**P.O. Box 1987**  
**Castle Rock, CO 80104**  
**(303) 949-8639**

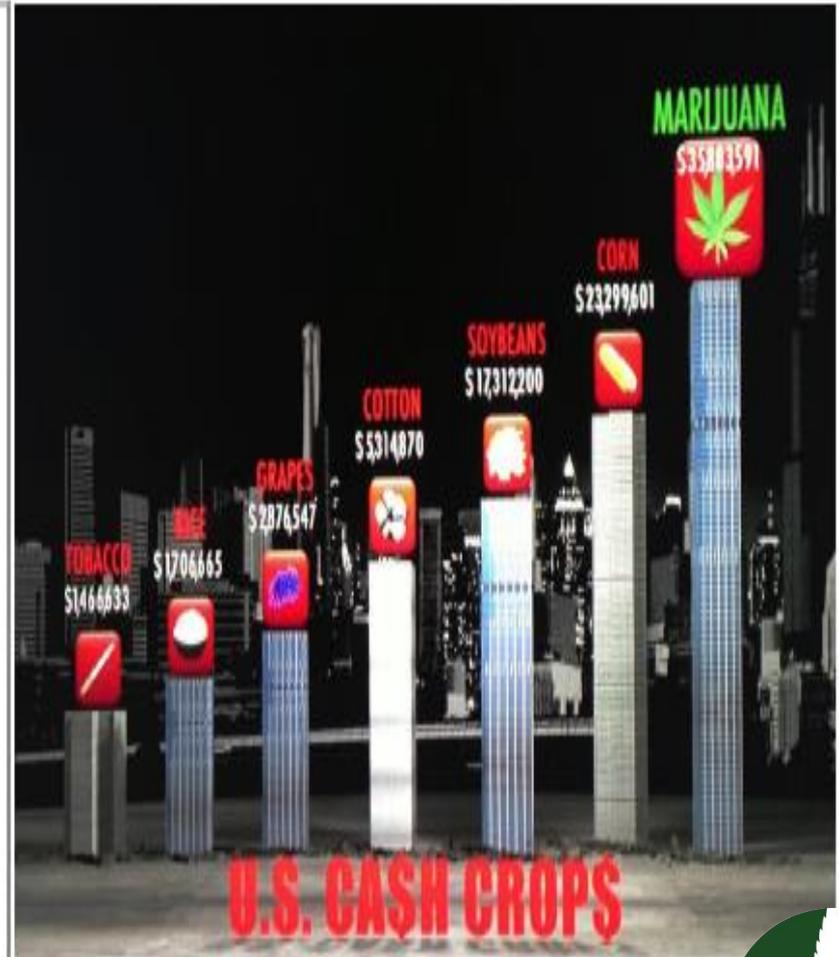


**The Washington Post**  
**The New York Times**  
**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**



July 2013

# TRENDS



# TRENDS

Legal marijuana is currently a \$3 billion industry in the United States and is projected to double in size by 2018.

The total potential nationwide legal marijuana market is estimated to be \$35 - \$45 billion (based on actual nationwide usage.)



For every dollar of tax revenue from alcohol and tobacco there are approximately \$10 in social, health, and work-related costs.

# COLLABORATIVE LEGISLATIVE GOALS:

## TO ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FOCUS ON MARIJUANA IN PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AND REDUCE:

- youthful drugged driving
- youthful abuse and addiction
- drug abuse in the workplace



- Work with legislators . . .
- and the Division of Driver Services (DDS) to strengthen their Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) for teenagers and their parents



# WORK WITH GEORGIA LEGISLATORS AND THE

- GA Dept. of Education Safe and Drug Free Schools Office to augment education programs in the schools
- GA Dept. of Juvenile Justice and the judicial system to strengthen educational programs for youthful and adult offenders



**We believe that every employee in GA has the right to work in a safe, drug-free work environment and that employers have a duty to maintain a safe and drug free workplace.**



# WALL STREET JOURNAL, AUGUST, 2013

- Cost to defend against employment practices liability suits range between \$69,000 and \$107,000 not counting awards if the plaintiff prevails.
- Georgia is a pro-employer state



- Language in any medical marijuana bill should allow the thousands of Georgia's certified, drug-free companies to maintain their safe and drug free workplaces and to protect employers from lawsuits by medical marijuana patients.

**OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:**

Nothing in this Article shall affect an employer's rights under O.C.G.A. § 34-9-17.



## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS continued

- A patient's participation in treatment under this Article and the consumption of medical cannabis shall not relieve the patient of the obligation to notify his or her employer if such participation impairs his or her ability to safely perform the duties of the job.
- Nothing in this Article shall require an employer to accommodate an employee's use of medical cannabis as an approved treatment.



- We must be careful not to lay a groundwork that could serve as a catalyst for the marijuana industry to lobby for broader uses in the future, many of which may be medically unjustified;
- California, Colorado and Washington have gone from more narrow medical marijuana bills to either de facto or actual recreational legalization.



- Alaska, Hawaii, and Oregon have also proceeded down this path to some extent.
- If Amendment 2 passes in **Florida** it will mean de facto recreational legalization
- Amendment 2 allows anyone of any age to use marijuana for any medical condition.



# RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

**To oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana as it is not in the best interests of the children or adults of Georgia.**





# **GEORGIA RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA STUDY**

**Data Collection and  
Analysis Performed by  
Bason Research, Athens, GA**





# METHODS AND PROCEDURES

- Conducted Aug. 22nd – Sep. 30, 2014
- US Postal Service Address Based  
Random Sample of residential addresses  
administered to 3,000 Georgia voters





# METHODS AND PROCEDURES

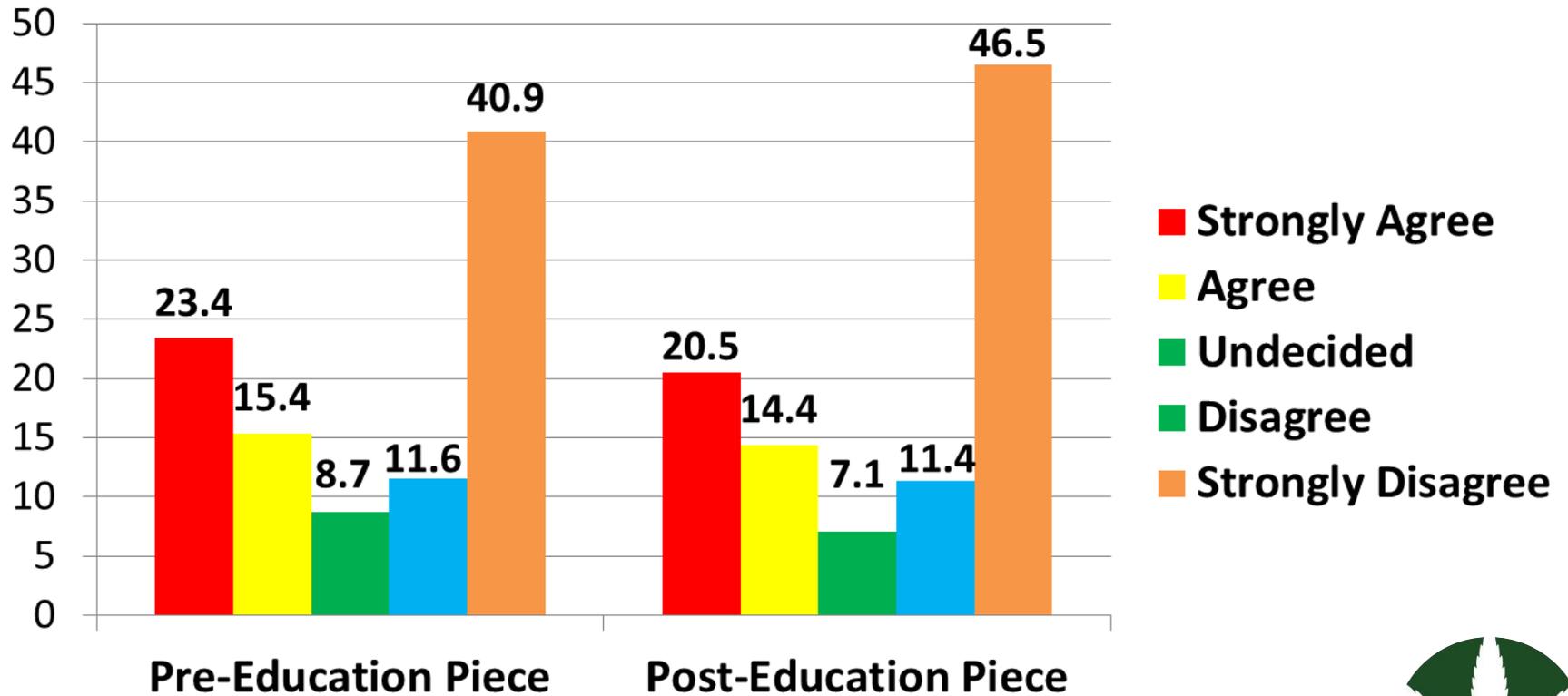
- 529 surveys returned from 2,624 deliverable addresses (20.2% response rate)
- Items measured support/opposition to recreational legalization of marijuana; demographic items; educational information between support opposition items





# RESULTS

(Strongly Agree or Agree = Support Legalization)



**THANK YOU**  
**For All You Do**  
**For Georgia's Children**

