



February 14, 2017

Co-Chair Senate Majority Leader Ginny Gurdick
Co-Chair Representative Ann Lininger
Co-Vice Chair Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli
Co-Vice Chair Senator Floyd Prozanski
Co-Vice Chair Representative Carl Wilson
Member Senator Lee Beyer
Member Senator Jeff Kruse
Member Representative Peter Buckley
Member Representative Ken Helm
Member Representative Andy Olson

Written Testimony Re: SB 307

My name is Helen Ying, I am the Chair of Big Village, a diverse coalition working together to prevent youth substance abuse and to support healthy, thriving youth in Multnomah County.

Big Village's members include schools, business owners, parents, and public health and prevention professionals. We are dedicated to promoting smart evidence-based approaches to prevention.

We are concerned with the impact of increased access and visibility of marijuana on youth and vulnerable populations in our community. Marijuana is not harmless, particularly to young people whose brains are still developing. In fact, youth who use marijuana are at increased risk for poor school performanceⁱ, driving under the influenceⁱⁱ, unplanned pregnancyⁱⁱⁱ, higher levels of delinquency^{iv}, as well as increased risk of addiction and dependency in adulthood^v.

Big Village opposes SB 307 for the following reasons:

- 1) SB 307 would increase the presence of marijuana in Oregon communities including: increased outlets serving marijuana, increased passive exposure, and increased advertisements that will reach youth. Marijuana related events also have the potential to increase access to marijuana and neighborhood livability issues.
- 2) Decades of research on effective alcohol and tobacco prevention interventions should inform our prevention efforts with Marijuana. Controlling outlet density, limiting the date and time of service and reducing advertisements are some of the strongest prevention measures that can be taken to prevent youth access and youth use.
- 3) We made great public health strides with Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act. SB 307 would be a step backward in terms of reducing exposure to workers and others impacted.
- 4) Having worked on alcohol related issues in Portland we are aware of challenges with alcohol and are concerned about impacts on neighborhoods, impaired driving and ensuring there are adequate resources to support and monitor these events.

In addition to my role as Chair of Big Village, I am a retired Vice Principal, an educator for 30 years and am currently a hearings officer for Parkrose School Districts and previously for Reynolds School District



as well. As a hearings officer, I see youth who are at risk of being expelled. The majority of cases I see involve youth who are dealing with the negative consequences related to marijuana use and dependence issues with marijuana, alcohol, and other drugs.

Because of the profound challenges that we face with youth use, it is essential that we strike the right balance between legal availability and protecting public health. Cannabis contributes to the economy and culture in Oregon and there is a strong industry voice for expanding profit opportunities. We urge you to also think about the livability and health of Oregon's children, families and people in recovery from addiction who want to limit their exposure.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Ying", written in a cursive style.

Helen Ying

Discover2010@gmail.com

503-803-4555

ⁱ Dougherty DM, Mathias CW, Dawes MA, et al. Impulsivity, attention, memory, and decision-making among adolescent marijuana users. *Psychopharmacology* 2013;226(2):307-319. doi: [10.1007/s00213-012-2908-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-012-2908-5)

ⁱⁱ Ashbridge M, Hayden JA, Cartwright JL. Acute cannabis consumption and motor vehicle risk: Systematic review of observational studies and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2012;344:e536. doi: [10.1136/bmj.e536](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.e536)

ⁱⁱⁱ Bryan AD, Schmiege SJ, Magnan RE. Marijuana use and risky sexual behavior among high-risk adolescents: Trajectories, risk factors, and event-level relationships. *Dev Psychol* 2012;48(5):1429-42. doi: [10.1037/a0027547](https://doi.org/10.1037/a0027547)

^{iv} Brook, J.S. et al. The risks for late adolescence of early adolescent marijuana use. *American Journal of Public Health*, October 1999.

^v *Drugs, Brains, and Behavior: The Science of Addiction*. National Institute on Drug Abuse. Published April 2007. Revised August 2010.