



# California POLICE CHIEFS Association Inc.

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May 11, 2016

Honorable Dana Rohrabacher  
United States Congress  
2300 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rohrabacher:

At the recent campaign launch in favor of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), you stated that, "We got a criminal justice system spending billions of dollars ... to try to take care of someone who wants to smoke weed in his backyard... How many women have been raped or people have been murdered by distracting our law enforcement?"

Your statements are both misleading and inaccurate. Marijuana possession has been decriminalized in California for over five years, following Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's signing of Senate Bill 1449. Considering that the possession of nearly \$300 worth of marijuana in California is a non-penal infraction, I am perplexed by your statement. Specifically, California Health and Safety Code Section 11357 (b) states that "Except as authorized by law, every person who possesses not more than 28.5 grams of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis, is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100)."

Furthermore, California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) currently spends zero dollars annually incarcerating persons found in simple possession of marijuana. An email sent on May 10, 2016 from CDCR's Office of External Affairs states that "When CDCR staff examined the HSCs [Health and Safety Codes] that referred to weight of MJ, staff were unable to locate anyone in prison with MJ offenses where the weight was less than an ounce." So Congressman, I'm asking you to show me the numbers behind your statement.

As leaders, we have the responsibility to keep the public informed and fight for the safety and wellbeing of all Californian's. As the President of the California Police Chiefs Association, I have never heard of a sexual assault or murder occurring due to the fact that our officers were responding to an individual consuming marijuana on his or her personal property, and to make such an assertion is insulting to the brave men and women who risk their lives to keep Californian's safe. Your statement was not only blatantly false and misleading, but it was also highly irresponsible for you to publically misrepresent facts.

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Congressman, the AUMA is not about social justice. It is not about criminal justice savings. It is not about granting individuals the freedom to smoke marijuana on their personal property. And it is certainly not about protecting public safety. It is about the commercialization and normalization of marijuana. It is about out-of-state investors profiting off of a new investment that will produce irreparable harm to local communities. It is about the marketing and sale of high potency edible products devoid of potency limits. In fact, it even goes so far to include loopholes that will allow convicted heroin and meth dealers that have used children during the course of their activity, to become recreational marijuana sales licensees.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss our mutual goal of keeping Californian's safe and enhancing our State's wellbeing. Regrettably, the AUMA will not accomplish either of these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken CORNEY". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "C".

Ken Corney  
President