



Santa Barbara SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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December 4, 2009

Supervisor Janet Wolf
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisor Wolf:

Thank you for taking up the issue of marijuana dispensaries in our unincorporated areas. I am advocating a ban on dispensaries. It is also the position of community leaders for Fighting Back, which works to combat alcohol and drug abuse among our students, and it is backed by concerns expressed by school Board of Education members to the City of Santa Barbara. The Board of Education was particularly concerned of a number of existing or proposed dispensaries in Santa Barbara are clustered around our schools and are permitted as little as 500 feet from schools. To date, nothing has been done to protect our students in Santa Barbara and we are concerned that the problem will soon extend to the unincorporated areas.

District data indicates that many students who have been disciplined because they were in possession of marijuana, under the influence of marijuana, or for sales of marijuana at school or school events secured the marijuana directly or indirectly from medical marijuana dispensaries located within the City of Santa Barbara.

Students high on marijuana are not enhancing their learning. More teens enter treatment for marijuana dependency than for all other illicit drugs combined, and the earlier teens start using marijuana, the more likely they are to become dependent later in life. Our children need protection.

When the citizens of our state agreed to the compassionate use of medical marijuana, I do not think they intended to make it so easy for children to obtain. Students tell me "the stuff is easy to get," either directly from the dispensaries as they turn 18 years old or from older teens who get it at the dispensaries. One student told me all he had to do was "buy a prescription" and he "was in business."

Please protect our children by banning dispensaries in our unincorporated areas.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Sarvis, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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| Adams Elementary School Cesar Chavez Charter School Cleveland Elementary School Franklin Elementary School Harding Elementary School | Home School Santa Barbara McKinley Elementary School Monroe Elementary School Open Alternative School | Peabody Charter School Roosevelt Elementary School Santa Barbara Charter School Santa Barbara Community Academy Washington Elementary School | Goleta Valley Junior High School La Colina Junior High School La Cumbre Junior High School Santa Barbara Junior High School | Alta Vista Alternative High School Dos Pueblos High School La Cuesta Continuation High School San Marcos High School Santa Barbara High School |
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