Vote NO on Question 4

This November, Massachusetts voters will decide on ballot Question 4 that would ***legalize psychedelics,*** *open* ***for-profit psychedelic centers****, and allow for the* ***growth and distribution of homegrown psychedelics*** *throughout the Commonwealth. Coalition for Safe Communities is urging voters to* ***vote NO on Question 4****.*

Creates a loophole for an unregulated black-market

If passed, this would immediately allow for at-home growth and for the distribution of homegrown psychedelics, creating a massive loophole for an unregulated and unsafe black market. The proposed referendum would allow individuals to grow in a 12-foot by 12-foot area - that is larger than the average bedroom. Massachusetts' Legislative Committee for Initiative Petitions even publicly stated that this loophole would be "permitting the growth of an unregulated, unlicensed marketplace."

Would exacerbate the rise of DUIs in Massachusetts

In recent years, the number of driver's license revocations for drugged driving has risen sixty-five percent and fatal DUI crashes increased by over fifty percent statewide. Studies show one in three frequent psychedelic users report having driven under the influence of hallucinogens in the past year. Law enforcement and public safety officials agree, we need to focus on making our roads safer – not more dangerous.

> Question 4 "is reckless, irresponsible, and presents a major health risk"
> Dr. John Fromson
> Former President, Massachusetts Psychiatric Society

Question 4 is a danger to children and pets

Drug intoxications of children and pets have also been on the rise nationwide. Edibles made into sweets like cookies and candy are a particular danger to children under five and pets who mistakenly consume them in extremely high and even toxic levels. Many studies have shown that **the psychedelic ibogaine has *life-threatening* cardiotoxicity** and that heart failure can occur several days, in some cases weeks, after taking a single dose even when given in a controlled setting by a medical doctor. Decriminalizing psychedelics and allowing for home-growth will put more children and pets at risk of accidentally consuming these drugs.

> "These promising findings...have not provided evidence that the wide scale recreational legalization of these substances would be beneficial, let alone safe."
> Massachusetts' Legislative Committee for Initiative Petitions

The Psychedelic Centers have many serious flaws

The for-profit psychedelic centers that would be legalized under this initiative have many flaws. While proponents say the facilities will be licensed, they are not required to be run by medical professionals. As a result, the centers are not able to provide critical medical care individuals need during severe adverse reactions. The centers are also not prohibited from giving psychedelics to high-risk patients like those with schizophrenia, bipolar illness, and pregnant or breastfeeding women. There is also no ability for towns or cities to ban the centers in their area, even if most residents and their elected officials do not want them there. It is clear these for-profit centers put corporate profits over public health.

For-profit centers may cost taxpayers

Proponents also claim that fee revenues from psychedelic centers will cover the costs of running them – but the exact opposite has happened in Oregon. Instead, millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent to keep Oregon's psychedelic centers afloat. Years after the measure passed, Dr. Mason Marks, a former Oregon Psychedelic Advisory Board member and current Senior Fellow at Harvard Law School's Project on Psychedelics Law and Regulation, stated **"The promise was that taxpayers wouldn't be on the hook for this...I don't think this is ever going to be funded by fees."** If Question 4 is approved, Massachusetts taxpayers could wind up footing the bill because of the same failed promises made by proponents here.

Join the Coalition for Safe Communities

The Coalition for Safe Communities is the official ballot committee organized to urge voters to **vote NO on Question 4**. Our group is a diverse statewide coalition of Massachusetts individuals, medical professionals, mental health professionals, law enforcement, veterans, elected officials, recovery groups, firefighters, business owners, and community groups that oppose this act. To learn more, join our coalition, or to donate to our campaign, please visit our website by scanning the QR code below or email us at info@SafeCommunitiesMA.com

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