



March 17, 2010

Honorable Tom Ammiano, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2254 – OPPOSE

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County – joins with the law enforcement community in respectfully opposing AB 2254.

AB 2254 permits the unlimited sale of marijuana at any store that has an off-sale general license – *virtually every liquor store and grocery market in California*. That means an increase not only in exposure to the general public but an exponential increase in use by the general public.

The bill brings additional social problems to those already caused by the use of alcohol and other unlawful substances. Passage will continue to encourage cultivation by Mexican Drug Cartels – Cartels that will still sell their ungraded, often questionably cut product for street price. Income from the sale of these drugs by the cartels will add to the already gainful California underground economy. There will be little or no new revenue for state drug education programs, as the bill infers. The widespread drug distribution in itself says to young adults that there must be no problem with marijuana. Its serious effect on individual brain matter noted by neurologists is of little import to the user, who is truly unaware as he or she basks in the lingering haze of the drug.

Very truly yours,


Pat McNamara
President



Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA
Consultants – Assembly Committee on Public Safety