



August 12, 2015

Dear Fellow Ohioans:

As our Administration and General Assembly work together to move Ohio forward in a positive way, we ask for your support to defeat efforts by a handful of rich investors to cement a monopoly for themselves in Ohio's Constitution that would allow them to cultivate, market and sell marijuana for recreational and medical use.

To maintain our progress, we must defeat State Issue 3 and adopt State Issue 2, two proposed constitutional amendments poised to appear on the November 3 general election statewide ballot this year.

After Ohio has worked so hard to combat the tsunami of drugs that is washing over our neighborhoods, it is inconceivable that we would just walk away from that work and legalize marijuana. We have made significant progress tackling the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, we continue to beef up our fight against harder drugs like heroin and we have launched major new efforts to prevent drug abuse by educating parents and young people. We have also worked hard to help addicts get clean, get jobs and get back into life. We are not about to give up the fight against drugs now.

First, we must defeat State Issue 3, which would allow more than 1,100 outlets in neighborhoods across our state to sell all manner of marijuana products, including marijuana cookies and candy. Issue 3 was placed on Ohio's ballot this year by a small group of investors whose goal is to permanently lock into Ohio's Constitution their own monopoly, set their own tax rates and reap a lion's share of the profits from a lucrative industry. The greedy, reckless nature of Issue 3 has earned wide and deep opposition from parents, children health advocates, educators, medical professionals, addiction counselors, business leaders and Republican and Democratic elected officials.

Second, we must adopt State Issue 2 to permanently prevent self-serving private interests from setting up monopolistic schemes for financial advantage in Ohio's constitution. An anti-monopoly provision is consistent with the spirit and intent of the writers of the Ohio constitution's foundational document. Indeed, 19 other state constitutions have specific bans on monopolies. Issue 2 was developed by members of the nonpartisan Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission and was placed on the ballot after a strong bipartisan vote in our General Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration. The future direction of our state hangs on this issue, as does the future of our young people and our communities. We hope you agree that the defeat of Issue 3 and the adoption of Issue 2 are in the best interests of the health, safety and prosperity of the citizens of Ohio.

John R. Kasich
Governor

Keith Faber
Senate President

Cliff Rosenberger
House Speaker