**Town Article ## – Citizen Petition; To restrict the commercialization of marijuana and marijuana-based products**

**Reporter first draft due:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Warrant Article ## - To restrict the commercialization of marijuana and marijuana-based products.**

Shall the Town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote to amend the \_\_\_(town)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zoning Ordinance to restrict activities related to marijuana and marijuana-based products? This would include commercial marijuana cultivation, marijuana testing facilities, marijuana product manufacturing, marijuana retailers, on-site marijuana consumption at a business location, and any other marijuana-related activity for commercial purposes by whatever name used. This warrant article is not intended to limit a private citizen’s access to medical marijuana-related products in a private, non-commercial, residence.

*This is a citizen petition warrant article.*

This article would advise our Selectman to prevent the introduction of a marijuana business coming into the town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as a business such as this would increase marijuana product exposure to our youth and community.

The NH Legislature continues to see legislative bills attempting to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, which would fully commercialize the retail sale of marijuana and all high potency marijuana products without regard for the health of our youth and communities within the State of New Hampshire.

This warrant article is to advise the Selectmen to oppose the establishment of the following businesses, as incompatible with the rural character of our \_\_\_\_(town)----- community:

* · Commercial marijuana cultivation
* · Marijuana testing facilities
* · Marijuana product manufacturers
* · Marijuana retailers
* · On-site marijuana consumption at a business location
* · Or any other marijuana-related activity for commercial purposes by whatever name used

**Nothing in this warrant article is intended to limit use of marijuana or hemp products for medical purposes**.

This article is a proactive prevention effort to support a healthy, safe, drug free future of our youth.

There is no tax impact.

**A YES vote** would advise the Selectmen to oppose the future establishment of a marijuana related business in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NH.

**A NO vote** would have no impact

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

● *To support youth who want to limit access to a drug that they have personally seen impacting their family and friends,*

● *To limit marijuana commercialization, advertising and marketing, which normalizes and promotes use among youth. Substance misuse prevention is about increasing awareness to the dangers and risks of use.*

*INSERT DATA TO SUPPORT – please note this data was used when passing our ordinance\*\*\**

● *As citizens, we have seen the unintended adverse consequences from the establishment of a legalized marijuana industry in other states. SAM.org (2)*

●*Increased access to substances, such as marijuana, increases use.*

○  *51% of Raymond high school students report it would be easy or very easy to obtain marijuana. \*2019 RHS YRBS(1)*

○ *31% of NH Youth report living in a home with addiction \*2019 NH YRBS. (1)*

● *As a community, the Raymond Coalition For Youth, established in 2002, has been working to reduce substance misuse amongst our youth. In the past eighteen years, youth marijuana use has dropped from 29% to 21% for past 30-day youth use. (1) We cannot afford to disregard this success by adding the risk of increased access.*

● *Marijuana is drastically different from the 1970’s and 80’s when the average THC (the active ingredient that produces a high and in some cases even psychosis) level was 3 – 5%.*

○ *Today’s marijuana products average THC levels of 20% - 95% (7)*

○ *In 2020, 84% of marijuana products available in therapeutic cannabis dispensaries in NH had THC levels higher than 15% (4)*

● *Cultivation of marijuana has a huge impact on our environment and watershed “marijuana plants need water. Unfortunately, marijuana is a fairly thirsty plant - cannabis water use can equal up to six gallons of water every day (and that's just for one plant). That means a square mile of marijuana plants consume nearly 1 billion gallons of water during prime growing seasons. In areas where water supply is scarce, marijuana cultivation can take up more water than available - this has a direct negative impact on aquatic life and freshwater available for other necessary aspects of both human and natural life.” (5)*

● *NH has therapeutic cannabis for those who want to access it for medical conditions and Marijuana is decimalized in NH, meaning “no prison time or criminal record for first-time possession of a small amount for personal use. The conduct is treated like a minor traffic violation.” (6)*

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

● *The NH motto is live free or die. People generally feel they should not get into other people’s business. Substance misuse prevention is everyone’s business because of the impact it has on our communities financially through increased taxes – substance misuse leads to*

○ *Increased law enforcement for crime and driving impaired expenses*

○ *Increased health care for family behavioral health services such as mental illness, depression and psychosis. As well as treating cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (9)*

○ *School outcomes are impacted through lower grades, truancy, dropout rates and overall reduced school success..*

*Even if this is something that you are not interested in you need to be aware of the impact it can have on the community. (8)*

● *You are a marijuana user and do not understand the impact access and use has on the community.*

● *You are unaware of today’s marijuana products and the impact of high levels of THC (the active ingredient that produces a high and in some cases even psychosis.) (3)*

● *You have not learned about the updated NH laws regarding marijuana. It is accessible for those who use it for medical purposes and has been decriminalized meaning “no one is in jail for a little bit of weed.” (6)*

● *You think marijuana is just a plant so it cannot be dangerous. The poppy plant gives us opium and heroin and has created a drug addiction epidemic that has lead to thousands of deaths. (10)*

**References:**

1. *2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey result – Raymond and State of NH – www.rcfy.org*
2. *Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)* [*https://learnaboutsam.org/*](https://learnaboutsam.org/)
3. *Smart Colorado* [*https://smartcolorado.org/products/*](https://smartcolorado.org/products/)
4. *Mapping cannabis potency in medical and recreational programs in the United States h*[*ttps://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/core/lw/2.0/html/tileshop\_pmc/tileshop\_pmc\_inline.html?title=Click%20on%20image%20to%20zoom&p=PMC3&id=7098613\_pone.0230167.g003.jpg*](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/core/lw/2.0/html/tileshop_pmc/tileshop_pmc_inline.html?title=Click%20on%20image%20to%20zoom&p=PMC3&id=7098613_pone.0230167.g003.jpg)
5. *The Environmental Downside of Cannabis Cultivation https://daily.jstor.org/the-environmental-downside-of-cannabis-cultivation/*
6. [*https://www.visit-newhampshire.com/state/marijuana-in-new-hampshire/*](https://www.visit-newhampshire.com/state/marijuana-in-new-hampshire/)
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9. *Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome - https://www.cedars-sinai.org/health-library/diseases-and-conditions/c/cannabinoid-hyperemesis-syndrome.html*
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