



# Washington Association For Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention 2019 Legislative Priority Areas

## 1. Fund Initiatives to Build Safe Communities

There is a great need to foster effective community police partnerships to achieve greater civility and adherence to safe and healthy community norms that benefit children and families through programs to engage community members in partnership with law enforcement, government and key stakeholders to address community safety issues, such as increased substance use disorders attributed to marijuana, alcohol opioid, and methamphetamine abuse and community level violence. Current gaps in funding from state agencies point to the need for resources to engage the grassroots and key stakeholders in school and community-based prevention initiatives.

## 2. Safety Measures

- a. Commercial marijuana presents similar challenges as “Big Tobacco” in the influences on youth. To protect youth:
  - i. Restore and implement original funding allocations for protective measures under I-502.
  - ii. Strengthen regulations and enforcement of marijuana advertising.
  - iii. Discontinue sales of marijuana infused edibles that resemble any regular food item.
  - iv. Replace “recreational” with “adult use” in all marijuana legislation and rules.
- b. Advocate for policies that support firearm safety and violence prevention.

## 3. Support Restrictions Limiting Access

Raise the legal age of access to tobacco and vapor products to 21 years and advocate for more regulation and enforcement of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). These strategies will have a substantial positive impact on public health, helping to fight the scourge of tobacco use and save lives.

## 4. Focus on Preventing Alcohol Normalization

Focus on curbing the expansion of alcohol availability, especially where families and children are involved, as expansion evolves alongside commercial marijuana and other substances for comprehensive prevention that incorporates multiple substances of abuse.

## 5. Monitor and Support Opioid Prevention Efforts

Advocate to prevent young people from becoming addicted to opioids. Advocate for safe storage, statewide safe disposal, and limiting adolescent prescriptions to prevent overdoses. Implement the locally driven proven communications strategies geared toward youth and the community.

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