

Bill,

I'm a Trooper with the Highway Patrol (26 years) stationed along I-70. We have had several issues with people going to Colorado to smoke marijuana and coming back through Kansas.

Four young men from central KS went to Colorado to "legally" smoke marijuana (never mind that they were under 21). Left to return home after smoking and the driver left the roadway, went through the right-of-way fence, sideswiped one tree and "center punched" a second. When the car struck the tree it spun it around counterclockwise and then flipped onto its top. The three passengers had minor injuries, the driver was hospitalized. Luckily they were all wearing seat belts. Marijuana and paraphernalia were located in the vehicle; all four stated the reason for the trip to Colorado was to smoke pot.

Another Trooper worked one where a father took his grown daughter and some of her friends to Colorado to share the experience. Dad "fell asleep," went into the median where the vehicle rolled, sending all the occupants to the hospital. WHAT A DAD!

The consequences of Colorado's legalization of marijuana cannot be measured in Colorado accidents/issues alone. This affects us all.

On a lighter note... Stopped a vehicle westbound towards Colorado for an equipment violation. Kansas registration from the Kansas City area. Single male driver, 22 years old. Asked where he was headed. "Colorado." Where in Colorado? "Denver." What's going on in Denver? "A funeral." I wrote the ticket and went back to the driver and repeated the questions with the same answers. Then I asked, Whose funeral? "A friend." What do you plan to wear to the funeral? (He was wearing blue jeans and T-shirt and there was no luggage in the vehicle.) "Suit." Where is your suit? "It's already there." After some discussion as to the believability of this I said: So, where are you headed? "Manhattan." (Geography lesson— Manhattan is between KC and Hays— BACK THE OTHER DIRECTION.) When I gave a quizzical response to this he stated, "Seems like the best thing to do right now." After a lengthy discussion it turns out he is a student at Kansas State and had pooled some money together from some friends and was taking a road trip to Colorado to buy marijuana to bring back to campus. His major is entrepreneurship. The story is a lot longer and more detailed than that, but you get the point.

Bill in KS

Bennett, William J.; White, Robert A. (2015-02-03). *Going to Pot: Why the Rush to Legalize Marijuana Is Harming America* (pp. 87-88). Center Street. Kindle Edition.