

The Daily Courier | March 12, 2014

Letter: Effort against weed is truly 'grassroots'

EDITOR:

It was very interesting reading Mr. Wiederaender's editorial Friday on the resolutions that have recently been passed against legalized marijuana.

As you are aware, Sheila Polk is not only the County Attorney she is also the chair of MATFORCE. As the chair of MATFORCE, she provides leadership to a grassroots effort of people from all walks of life who come together and implement strategies to reduce substance abuse in Yavapai County.

Mr. Wiederaender's suggestion of "a grassroots" effort is exactly what Sheila Polk and MATFORCE has worked on to accomplish. A Chief of Police from a Denver suburb told Yavapai County law enforcement that to be successful in the fight against legalized marijuana and the many negative effects, we need to mobilize now and form a grass roots effort. Hence, we are following his advice.

The proponents of legalized marijuana will come into Arizona with millions of dollars as they did in Colorado. The people who are fighting for the future of our children against legalization will not have millions of dollars to fight this war. When we presented the facts to the Town/City Councils and Board of Supervisors, many supporters/members of MATFORCE were in attendance at each meeting. At each meeting mothers and fathers were present to give their support and testimony for the resolution.

MATFORCE and Yavapai County law enforcement made the decision to go to our city and county leaders and ask them to stand with us in this fight. I am thankful to each and every council member and supervisor who voted "yes." It is our ultimate goal to have thousands of concerned moms and other community members standing with us in this fight. MATFORCE works hard to educate our youth in schools and parents through parenting education and programs such as MATFORCE Valuable Parent.

I urge everyone reading this letter to ask: What are the motives of both sides of this argument. Our motivation for this work is not making money or being able to be legally high on a drug; our motivation is the positive future of our children and the positive future of the wonderful communities in Yavapai County in which we live.

I encourage other people with these shared motives to join our efforts.

Merilee Fowler  
Executive Director  
MATFORCE