

# THE SACRAMENTO BEE

## **Base cannabis DUI laws on science, Sept. 1, 2016**

Re [“Pot critics focus on driving while stoned”](#) (Page 7A, Aug. 31): Legalizing marijuana threatens highway safety while increasing court congestion and costs, and state judicial systems are already overwhelmed by drug-related casework.

The evidentiary issues are serious. Unlike with alcohol, a scientifically based measure for THC impairment does not exist. THC is fat-soluble, so blood limits could remain above the legal limit for days after the user last legally smoked pot. The user would not appear stoned, but legally could still be considered impaired and presumed guilty. Devastating and long-lasting implications could result in cases such as auto accidents in which someone dies.

Clearly, more scientific research is needed in order for DUI laws to reflect actual impairment rather than best guesses. States must consider the increased costs and implications of overburdening law enforcement and the judicial system before acting too soon to legalize marijuana.

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