

## Rebuttal to the Argument in Favor of Measure T

Banning medical marijuana dispensaries will deprive seriously ill people of medicine that they need to live, and endanger the city at large. A ban of legal, carefully regulated dispensaries will increase the supply of illegal marijuana in our community. Street dealers, who stand to profit immensely from a ban, are the real danger to our children. The unregulated black market will flourish under a ban, exposing our youth to dangerous and truly harmful drugs.

The City Council recently enacted an ordinance that is one of the strictest in California. The three permitted non-profit dispensaries will not serve minors and are subject to regular inspection by city officials who will ensure they are in full compliance with the law. A ban would invalidate this control and leave the city powerless to regulate medical marijuana.

Dispensaries are not “marijuana stores,” as the initiative’s proponents mischaracterize them. They are simply legal collectives that operate in a commercial area, which is where they belong. A ban would force these collectives out of commercial districts and into our residential neighborhoods.

Seriously ill patients are unable to grow their own plants and need safe access to dispensaries to treat their conditions. Denying people the medical treatment they need sends the wrong message to the youth and will hurt Santa Barbara’s reputation as a sensible, progressive, and compassionate community.

Thousands of Santa Barbara citizens benefit from safe access to medical marijuana. Do the right thing for all of us.

Vote “NO” on Measure T.

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