

# ***DON'T CALIFORNIA MY ARIZONA!***

## **ANALYSIS OF HOUSE BILL 2303, Prime Sponsor: Rep. David Stringer<sup>1</sup>**

Rep. David Stringer (LD1) was the prime sponsor of HB2303 during the 2018 AZ Legislative Session. The bill failed, but he wants to defelonize drug possession. ***Such laws have proven disastrous for California!***

Rep. Stringer's bill, HB2303:<sup>2</sup>

- √ Makes possession of up to 5 pounds of marijuana (**7000 marijuana joints!**<sup>3</sup>) a misdemeanor
- √ Lowers possession of methamphetamine, heroin and other drugs to class 6 felony
- √ **Decreases penalties for selling drugs to minors / Decreases penalties for selling heroin in school zones**

### ***Rep. Stringer's bill is an 'Arizona Welcome Mat' for drug cartels!***

- √ Rep. Stringer's bill will significantly decrease penalties for meth labs and heroin & meth traffickers.
- √ Arizona is a major drug-running corridor.
- √ 12% of inmates are in custody for drug trafficking; 25% of those are criminal aliens.<sup>4</sup>

### **Arizona prisons/jails are NOT filled with low-level drug offenders**

Drug possession felonies **are unique under Arizona law**. The law **prohibits incarceration** until a 3rd conviction and **mandates treatment**.<sup>5</sup> Only .5% of prison inmates are serving time for marijuana possession only.<sup>6</sup>

**"Defelonizing" drug possession means more drug users living on the streets, not getting court-ordered treatment—just like California!**

***Don't California My Arizona! California Prop 47*** reduced personal drug use and certain property offenses to misdemeanors, eliminating "stick" of court-ordered treatment. The results are homeless camps with drug users who can no longer be court-ordered to treatment.



**February 2018 cleanup by Orange County of 2-mile homeless camp collected:<sup>7</sup>**

- ◇ **404 tons of debris**
- ◇ **13,950 needles**
- ◇ **5,279 pounds of human fecal matter and waste**

Photo 2/14/18: Mark Rightmire, Orange County Register/SCNG

#### **SOURCES**

<sup>1</sup> Prepared and paid for by Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney, Chair of Arizonans for Responsible Drug Policy. [www.ARDP.org](http://www.ARDP.org). No public resources used. Not authorized by any candidate.

<sup>2</sup> <https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/BillOverview/70083?SessionId=119>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/15/science/how-much-weed-is-in-a-joint-pot-experts-have-a-new-estimate.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Corrections at a Glance. <https://corrections.az.gov/sites/default/files/REPORTS/CAG/2018/cagjun18.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> ARS 13-901.01, enacted into law in 1997. In 2006, the Arizona State Legislature passed an exception for possession of meth.

<sup>6</sup> Corrections at a Glance. <https://corrections.az.gov/sites/default/files/REPORTS/CAG/2018/cagjun18.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2018/03/09/homeless-river-cleanup/>.