



**KENTUCKY NARCOTIC
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

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Drug Task Force*

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Robbie Clark

Executive Board Member

Lake Cumberland Area Drug Task Force

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Nicholasville Police Department

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South-Central Kentucky Drug Task Force

Ron Lafferty

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Barren River Drug Task Force

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Kentucky State Police

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Legal Counsel

Warren County Commonwealth Attorney

KNOA Media Statement

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Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association

Applauds Attorney General's decision to rescind Cole Memo

The Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association vehemently supports United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions' courageous decision to rescind the Cole Memo. The Association knows it will take a strong individual like Jeff Sessions to lead this nation out of the drug epidemic. The men and women of our Association are on the front lines of the drug epidemic that has cost so many Kentuckians their lives. We witness firsthand the devastation that drugs cause. We interact daily with addicts and traffickers, and our members fully understand the effects of marijuana use.

Since the 2013 memo drafted by former United States Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole, a lack of federal prosecution for marijuana offenses has had a detrimental effect on the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The availability of very potent marijuana sourced from other states has dramatically increased.

The President of the Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association, Matthew Gelhausen, says "Kentucky Law Enforcement Officers routinely interdict marijuana from states like California and Colorado. There has been a drastic increase in seizures since 2013. It is my belief and the belief of the members that I represent, that greater marijuana availability equals increased teenage use and greater teenage marijuana use equals more adults addicted to other drugs like opioids. Kentucky can scarcely afford more addicts."

Marijuana is a very profitable drug to traffic and we regularly see large amounts of cash associated with the illicit marijuana trade in Kentucky. This cash is often invested into other illegal enterprises.

The Kentucky Narcotics Officers' Association represents more than 400 Law Enforcement Officers from agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

