Governor's statement on signing Bill 32

I have made a decision regarding Bill 32.   I have decided to sign Bill 32 into law.

My decision was made with (an) open mind and with tremendous earnest debate, discussions, conversations, informed by doctors nurses, lawyers, social workers

I listened intensely to the opponents and to the proponents of the bill.

At the end of the day I have to answer this one question. Given all the information the studies done, experiences shared, advice, anecdotes about marijuana what would a responsible community government leaders do to protect the interest and welfare of the community?

We must regulate this illicit drug that is the most widely used drug in our society.

We have to take it and control it. Monitor its use and its effects, (and) benefit from its medicinal (effects).

Allow our people to live in a safer environment.

Keeping it illegal in my mind rejects the notion that it exists and that the underground market will continue to pray on us.

We have to be ahead of this, and we have to control it.

One observation I did make after all this effort is that we all agree the community as a whole about the positive medicinal effects of cannabis and the good it has done for those in pain and suffering from cancer, PTSD, (and) debilitating neurogenic events.

This being the case let's take this and turn it into a regulated and controlled access.

Nothing changes in the protection of our children as we remain responsible parents and responsible adults.

In fact, this bill will strengthen it by more directed regulations.

Nothing changes in the policies of our workplace as responsible businesses and agencies.

We must continue to enforce zero tolerance of substance abuse in the workplace.

Use of cannabis is now very clear that it cannot be used in public places.

Many of the regulations mimic what we have for legal alcohol and tobacco

As a community we need to work together to further decrease the abuse of other drugs and to make sure we continue to work towards a safer and protected environment.