

# New Hampshire's GOP Gubernatorial Hopeful Takes Stand Against Cannabis Legalization

Former U.S. Senator *Kelly Ayotte* (R), currently a gubernatorial candidate in New Hampshire, recently voiced her opposition to legalizing marijuana for adults, citing concerns about the potential impact on public health and the state's ongoing fentanyl crisis.

## Ayotte's Concerns

In an interview with local ABC affiliate WMUR, Ayotte expressed her reservations about legalizing marijuana, highlighting her worries about exacerbating the state's fentanyl problem and increasing mental health issues among young people. She emphasized the importance of addressing mental health crises in the state and suggested that legalizing marijuana would not contribute positively to this goal.

## Legislative Developments

Ayotte's comments come amid ongoing legislative discussions about adult-use cannabis legalization in New Hampshire. The state's House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would legalize and regulate adult-use cannabis, but the Senate is considering changes to the legislation before it reaches Governor Chris Sununu's desk.

## Ayotte's Firm Opposition

When asked about the possibility of considering cannabis legalization if elected governor, Ayotte firmly stated her opposition to the idea. She expressed concerns about the potential negative consequences of legalization, particularly for young people, and emphasized her commitment to addressing mental health issues and combating the fentanyl crisis in the state.

## Legislative Challenges

The fate of the legalization bill remains uncertain, with both Governor Sununu and Senate leaders calling for changes to the legislation. Lawmakers are navigating complex negotiations to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill, with various proposals being considered to address concerns about public health and safety.

As the debate over cannabis legalization continues in New Hampshire, former Senator Ayotte's stance adds another perspective to the discussion. While supporters of legalization argue for the economic benefits and social justice implications of ending prohibition, opponents like Ayotte raise concerns about potential risks to public health and safety. The outcome of these legislative deliberations will have significant implications for the future of cannabis policy in the state.