

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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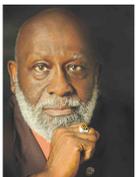
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T. Williard Fair,
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Calvina Oliveri,
Executive Director, Drug Free America Foundation & S.O.S.,
retired 2018

Our Mission Statement

Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S.) is a 501(c)(4) national nonprofit organization committed to establishing, promoting, and enabling sound drug laws and policies that will reduce illegal drug use, drug addiction and drug-related illness and death. Our purpose is to help Americans advocate for sound drug policies.

We work to educate our nation's lawmakers and activate grassroots anti-drug coalitions to promote policies that enhance community health and safety.

We provide support and resources to professionals working in fields that are impacted by drug use and abuse such as prevention and treatment providers, medical doctors, lawmakers, teachers, law enforcement officers and others who are working to build a better future.

S.O.S. takes a comprehensive approach to promote sound drug policy that includes education, prevention, abstinence-based treatment, scientific research, and community awareness.

State Legislation



Save Our Society From Drugs is the only national drug policy organization tracking ALL drug policy legislation at the federal and state levels. Every day our staff looks at legislation introduced in each state, determines if it is appropriate legislation to track, and then categorizes it as pro-drug or anti-drug.

In 2020, we tracked 1,365 state legislative efforts. Of those, 484 sought to reduce illicit drug use and abuse. This number is slightly higher than what we saw in 2019 when 433 anti-drug bills legislation were introduced.

Of the anti-drug bills introduced in 2020, 52 were signed into law and 35 will carry over to the 2021 session.

Wins for drug prevention and substance abuse treatment include bills that:

- Enhanced state prescription drug monitoring programs
- Regulated vaping and tobacco products
- Implemented and enhanced state problem solving courts, such as drug courts, DUI courts, and veterans courts
- Addressed the opioid epidemic by increased penalties for fentanyl trafficking, expanded access to naloxone, and increased access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MATs)



Unfortunately, 2020 was another record-breaking year for the number of pro-drug bills introduced at the state level. S.O.S. tracked 881 pro-drug state bills, an increase compared to 834 bills in 2019, 685 in 2018, 610 in 2017, 555 in 2016 and 416 in 2015.

Of the 881 pro-drug bills, 35 will carry over to the 2021 session while 767 were defeated. That's an 87% success rate! These results are directly tied to the efforts of S.O.S., including our members and grassroots partners who worked passionately to prevent the normalization and escalation of drug use and abuse.

When you compare our staff size and operating budget to that of Big Marijuana, the results are impressive!

[2020 Ballot Measure Outcomes - Marijuana and Magic Mushrooms](#)

The 2020 presidential election turned out a record number of voters, two-thirds of the voting eligible population, and in many states, there was more on the ballot than just the candidates. Marijuana and/or psilocybin (commonly referred to as magic mushrooms) appeared on several statewide ballots.

Marijuana proponents attempted to put a proposed amendment on the 2020 ballot in Florida to permit recreational marijuana. Drug Free America and S.OS, along with the Florida Senate, Florida House of Representatives, and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, asked the Florida Supreme Court to keep this proposed amendment off the 2020 ballot since the proponents had failed to completely follow the statutory requirements. Ultimately, this effort was successful and there was no marijuana related measures on Florida's ballot this past year. Now, as we expected, the marijuana proponents are back at it attempting to get the measure on the 2022 ballot. But Drug Free America and S.O.S. are still at the Florida Supreme Court asking the court to prevent this initiative from appearing on the ballot since, among other reasons, the ballot summary is misleading to voters and it should be rejected.



Voters in Arizona, Montana, New Jersey, and South Dakota approved ballot measures to legalize and commercialize marijuana and voters in Mississippi and South Dakota approved medical marijuana measures.

Oregon became the first state to legalize the use of psilocybin. The measure creates a program that will administer psilocybin to individuals 21 years and older via state approved centers. The District of Columbia also passed a psilocybin measure. The D.C. measure requires police to treat the non-commercial cultivation, distribution, possession, and use of entheogenic plants and fungi as among the lowest law enforcement priorities.

Oregon voters were not just looking at psilocybin. Voters there also approved a measure that decriminalizes the personal/non-commercial possession of all controlled substances, including heroin.

S.O.S. will work with partners in these states through the implementation process to push for regulations that mitigate the negative consequences as seen in states with similar laws. It is vital that we continue to voice objection to policies that increase the access and availability of substances of abuse.

Special Highlight

The ballot measure to legalize marijuana in South Dakota was overturned by a circuit court judge who ruled the measure unconstitutional as it violated the state requirement that restricts ballot measures to a single topic. Although the decision will be likely be taken up by the state supreme court, this is a huge victory for public health and safety.



SOS Advocacy & Lobbying



With more than two decades of experience, S.O.S. continues to be a leading voice in all matters related to drug policy. We accomplish this by furthering the conversation along with advocacy and lobbying.

Furthering the Conversation

In 2020, S.O.S. successfully disseminated research on drug policy issues and effective strategies to reduce drug abuse by presenting to state associations, community and civic groups, and legislative delegation meetings. S.O.S. also partnered with local community coalitions to provide speakers and panelists at town hall meetings and drug summits.

In Florida, S.O.S. partnered with county and statewide coalitions to co-host our 8th annual drug prevention summit in Tampa, Florida that was attended by approximately 250 state and community stakeholders.



Advocacy and Lobbying

S.O.S. continues to work closely with local coalitions and national colleagues to prepare and submit testimony before state legislative committees to educate lawmakers on the impacts of proposed legislation and to support efforts that put community health and safety first by reducing access to addictive substances. Many of our partners are unable to lobby, and in those instances, S.O.S. takes special care to provide tools that can be used to educate using data-driven talking points and research materials. Many times, S.O.S. is asked to take the lead on specific issues and be a voice for groups whose funding prohibits lobbying.

In Florida, S.O.S. partnered with the Florida Coalition Alliance to host the Annual Prevention Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. At the Advocacy Day, members from prevention coalitions distributed information and conducted legislative meetings with all House and Senate members regarding the impacts of substance abuse in the state. Each year, Advocacy Day grows in numbers and in 2020, we were accompanied by youth from across the state.



2021 Focus

S.O.S. will actively work to support legislation that addresses the nation's opioid epidemic, expands problem solving courts, combats access to synthetic drugs, enhances prescription drug monitoring programs, and prevents youth access to vaping products. S.O.S. will continue to provide model ordinances and legislation to local, state, and federal lawmakers on a variety of drug policy issues and work with community organizations to promote prevention priorities.

We will continue to push back against groups seeking to legalize illicit drugs and lawmakers who put special interest groups before public health and safety priorities of their constituents.

In 2021, S.O.S. will advocate for federal and state funding for substance abuse prevention efforts and will urge the current administration to take a leadership role in addressing the nation's drug crisis. As we move forward in COVID-19 relief efforts, S.O.S. will urge state and national lawmakers to include strategies that address and mitigate the heightened risks of substance use in the context of the pandemic.

2021



5999 CENTRAL AVENUE,
SUITE 301
ST. PETERSBURG, FL, 33710

727.828.0210
727.828.0212

www.saveoursociety.org



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@SaveOurSociety1

