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***Set the blood limits for driving under the influence of marijuana in Connecticut at 5 nanograms per milliter.***

Twenty percent of crashes in the U.S. are caused by drugged driving. Marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims.

**Marijuana and Driving:** Since marijuana is the second most commonly used drug associated with drinking and drugged driving after alcohol, it is important to understand why it is particularly dangerous.

- THC, the psychoactive element in marijuana, affects areas of the brain that control:
- Body movements
- Balance, coordination
- Memory, judgment and reaction time
- Evidence from both real and simulated driving studies indicates that marijuana negatively affects a driver's attentiveness, perception of time and speed, and ability to draw on information obtained from past experiences.

**Despite the drug's potentially lethal effects when driving, drugged driving laws have not kept up with alcohol-related driving legislation or the new research on marijuana.**

- The Colorado Department of Transportation found that after passing "medical marijuana" legislation in the state, drivers who tested positive for marijuana in fatal car crashes DOUBLED between 2006 and 2010.
- Colorado recently signed into law a marijuana blood level limit for motorists. They set blood limits for driving while under the influence of marijuana at 5 nanograms per milliter. (HB 1114).
- In Washington State a blood THC level of 5 nanograms will establish that the driver was under the influence. (Initiative-502).

**Connecticut needs similar laws in place to ensure public safety.**