



PO Box 549 | Brookings, SD 57006

Tel 605.697.5204 | Fax 605.697.6230

www.dakotarural.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: WEEK 6

February 15 - 19, 2021

96TH LEGISLATIVE
SESSION

Ravnsborg Faces Misdemeanor Charges for Killing of Joe Boever

Yesterday, in a press conference at the Capitol, Hyde County State's Attorney Emily Sovell, assisted by Beadle County State's Attorney Michael Moore, announced that Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg will face three misdemeanor charges for the killing of Joseph Boever over five months ago alongside Highway 14 outside Highmore. Those charges are: operating a vehicle while using a mobile or electronic device, a violation for driving outside of his lane, and careless driving. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail and a maximum penalty of \$500.

In his Feb. 19th article for the South Dakota Standard, Boever's cousin Nick Nemeč, a farmer, former legislator, and longtime DRA member, said "I have researched South Dakota law and have been telling people for months that I suspected Ravnsborg would escape with a misdemeanor charge of 'crossing the white line,' and he did. State law does not allow higher charges unless the driver is intoxicated."

Nemeč continued, "I am told South Dakota has some of the weakest laws in the nation in this regard. I have little faith in the South Dakota system providing justice for those citizens without the right connections. I am willing to do what I can on this issue. I will help any legislator

or organization that wants to change state law and am willing to devote considerable time and effort to that cause."

Our sincere condolences go out to Nick, his family, and all those who knew Joe Boever.

HB 1100 Delay/Replace on Medical Marijuana Initiative Goes to House

HB 1100 was a vehicle bill that has been amended to allow the Governor to drag her feet on implementing the provisions of **Initiated Measure 26**—the medical marijuana initiative approved by voters in last November's election. It also changes key provisions of **IM 26**, in what could end up being a repeal-and-replace strategy that violates the spirit of what voters approved.

Voters gave the measure a nearly 70% landslide—in fact, **IM 26** got more votes in several districts than many of our current legislators. It was exhaustively-researched and well-crafted with years of stakeholder input. The changes and delays in **HB 1100** are coming from a Governor who has repeatedly indicated she does not support cannabis legalization in any form.

Delaying medical marijuana implementation means that people who need this medicine won't be able to get it, or if they have it, could be arrested and

