

TESTIMONY OF PHILLIP COSBY - STATE DIRECTOR AMERICAN FAMILY ACTION
OF KANSAS AND MISSOURI KANSAS
OPPONENT of SB 135 Medical Cannabis Regulation Act- March 2023

DON'T BUY THIS LEMON! Customer reviews. Buyer's remorse (Toklahoma) Dealers bum rush "don't let Nebraska beat you to it". We have to pass it to know what's in it? No fiscal note? What we do know;



There is nothing but red warning lights on this lemon, from every state agency, association, and supported by the historical slide from medical to recreational use.

- KBI TESTIMONY – multiple concerns and recommendations “According to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website, Schedule I drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with *no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.*”...” *high potential for abuse and the potential to create severe psychological and/or physical dependence*”
- ALCOHOL AND BEVERAGE CONTROL – DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE No less than seventeen major concerns and recommended changes to the bill. Including “expansion of staff and explosion of lawsuits”
- KANSAS BOARD OF PHARMACY – Roughly five major concerns yet remain.
- STATE BOARD OF HEALING ARTS - “Either bill would require significant, challenging, and important new work for the Board.” Six recommendations for improvements on the bill are evident.
- DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – Multiple obstacles remain with staffing and legality. “Any lab that is registered by the DEA must agree to comply with all federal laws, which may prohibit handling marijuana since marijuana remains illegal under federal law.”... “impact that marijuana production could have on agriculture and natural resources in Kansas, as states that have legalized marijuana have faced critical issues relating to water supply strain, water theft, and pesticide misuse. Because of the issues relating to water and pesticide use, those states have needed to devote significant monetary and personnel resources to protect natural resources and to prevent further loss.
- POLICE CHIEFS, SHERIFF, AND PEACE OFFICER ASSOCIATIONS – “To be clear, even if the topics we list below are addressed, we do not see our position on medical marijuana moving to supportive or even neutral.” Fifteen initial concerns and recommended changes. Five areas of significant cost identified. An additional four areas of grave concern. Fourteen additional detailed recommended changes.

● LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES – At least seven concerns and changes listed. “The legislature should carefully weigh the impact of medical marijuana on law enforcement and human resources”

OTHER FLASHING RED LIGHTS

● **AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PEDIATRICIANS** – June 2020 **ABSTRACT:** The American College of Pediatricians calls attention to the extensive scientific literature documenting marijuana use among youth as a risk factor for the development of long-term mental illness, particularly depression, suicidality and schizophrenia. This data behooves government leaders to refrain from further legalization of marijuana use and to instead enact only policies that will reduce cannabis use among youth.

● **PSYCHIATRIC TIMES** – Oct 10, 2022 ...”15 studies reporting on more than 3000 patients—suggests that substance misuse, specifically cannabis misuse, may be one of the most consistently reported risk factors for nonadherence (to prescribed medications) ... A subsequent prospective study investigating individuals with first-episode psychosis suggested that the effect on medication nonadherence was most pronounced for cannabis...”

● **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH... LIBRARY OF MEDICINE** – “Cannabis is involved in approximately 50% of psychosis, schizophrenia, and schizophreniform psychosis cases.[1,2,3,4,5] Cannabis is a known risk factor for schizophrenia, although the exact neurobiological process through which the effects on psychosis occur is not well understood.”

● **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION** - “To date, the FDA has not approved a marketing application for cannabis for the treatment of any disease or condition.”

● **PSYCHOLOGY TODAY** – March 2023 New data shows the negative impact of long-term cannabis use on cognition and hippocampal volume. Dr. Timmen L. Cermak MD

- IQ declines by a mean of 5.5 points and hippocampal volume declines by 12 percent after decades of persistent cannabis use.
- Changes caused by long-term cannabis use resemble risk factors for dementia later in life.

Not just thinking about the consequences of a decision, but the consequences of those consequences. Anyone visited Seattle recently? It not a homeless problem, it's a drug problem! Medical marijuana is the camel's nose under the tent.

This act shall be liberally construed to promote public health, safety and welfare?

Phillip Cosby , State Director American Family Action of KS and MO
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4 Encls: 1: Pinicchio Test, 2: KS vs CO, 3: Say No, 4: Colorado regrets.

Colorado Begins Legislation to Address A "Critical Public Health Challenge" Due to Marijuana Legalization: Don't Allow this to Happen to the Children and Citizens of Kansas.

On May 18, 2021, Colorado Speaker of The House Alec Garnett held a press conference to introduce HB21-1317, *Regulating Marijuana Concentrates*, a grassroots bi-partisan bill supported by over 50 Colorado organizations from both sides of the aisle. A tidal wave of Colorado youth and families testified in support of the bill, sharing their personal stories of the horrific outcomes caused by Colorado's high-potency legal marijuana products. On June 24, 2021, HB21-1317 was signed into law by Governor Jared Polis.



Resource:
Colorado General Assembly

Speaker of the House, Alec Garnett (D)

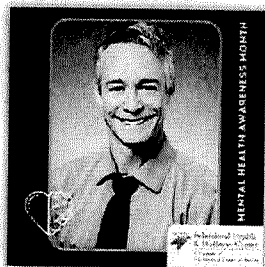
"...individuals that are able to buy 40 grams of high potency concentrates from every dispensary that they can get to before the close of business, and the concern that those products are being peddled to the black market to high school campus across Colorado."



Resource: Wikipedia

Philip J. Weiser, Colorado Attorney General (D)

"The rise of teenage use of high-potency concentration THC marijuana is a critical public health challenge that demands action." The Colorado Healthy Kids Survey reported that students who are dabbing THC went from 4.3% of students in 2015 to over 20% in 2019. This is an alarming rise. Medical marijuana laws have enabled this troubling trend."



Source: Facebook

Dr. Chris Rogers, Medical Director of Child and Adolescent Services at the Medical Center of Aurora, Colorado

"...Inpatient psychiatrists have a front-row seat to the emerging epidemic of cannabis abuse and addiction that threatens to swallow the lives of a whole generation of Coloradans."

On our adult inpatient unit, it's hard to keep count of the number of psychotic and suicidal patients that are admitted with THC on board, and regardless of the data and clear evidence of how cannabis contributes to their illness, person after person refuses to accept that marijuana could be bad for them. How could it be? They've been taught to believe this is a harmless plant and a medicine that is good for everything from headaches, to cancer, to anxiety. It's natural, without side effects without the risk of addiction. This is the lie that is ruining the lives of far too many people in our state.

The story on our adolescent unit is even more tragic, as we repeatedly treat kids that are too psychotic to know what's real, who they can trust, or where they are. The rates of adolescent psychosis have risen steadily since legalization, and in almost every case it's linked to high potency THC concentrates. Products known as dabs, wax, and shatter that are made in the lab by distilling down the most psychoactive component of the marijuana plant and concentrated into what's better described as a hard drug that (is not) the 'weed' people voted for with Amendment 64..."



Resource:
Colorado General Assembly

Colorado State Representative, Dr. Yadira Caraveo (D)

"I've noticed more and more that the young people in my clinic have begun using them more regularly and are using stronger products. They tell me about vaping and dabbing, they tell me how their friends do this in school... and in this last year alone I've been involved with 2 patients that had serious health effects from these products."

La'onna Pacheco, Colorado mom, and Social Worker

"...our children are being used as sacrificial lambs..." La'onna also described how marijuana affected her daughter: "She became distant, isolated... like a spell of addiction... her friends described her as being on crack, but she was on THC... I had my daughter's best interest at heart but other people did not have her best interest at heart. They told her it was a force for good, for the money it was bringing in... By the time we sought treatment, my daughter was experiencing psychosis. After five stints of rehab... that we're still paying off to this day, I'm proud to say that my daughter has been clean for a year..."



Source: Facebook



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March 1, 2022

To view all these video testimonies and more on Colorado HB-1317, please scan here or go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHQppGJU3SE&list=PLjsZxUuf9e18V1eZhKGOoOguOXzCvaeWI and it will take you to the Every Brain Matters-HB1317 playlist.



Resource: Colorado General Assembly

Colorado State Senator Rhonda Fields (D)

"It's not good for the well-being of our young people, and when they are exposed to it, sometimes it [marijuana] can throw them into a psychotic episode... I don't want any child to access something that is dangerous or harmful. And we should all want that for the state of Colorado."



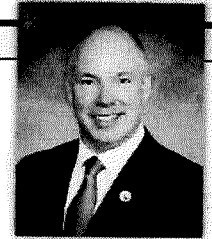
Resource: Colorado General Assembly

Colorado Representative Judy Amabile (D)

*"...we tried everything in our power to stop his [her son] marijuana use... But we couldn't stop his use... everywhere he went this product was available in greater and greater concentrations and potency...after his 1st psychotic break we sent him to a hospital...for 6 weeks and it cost us \$60,000 and they didn't fix it; they couldn't fix it. Today he has schizoaffective disorder with co-occurring substance misuse, and he will never recover, and our family is broken as a result and we will never be made whole. So, let's not talk about him because it's too late for him; let's talk instead about your children and the thousands of children being negatively impacted by the use of marijuana. **It's a real thing...thousands of parents are being affected by this and we are done being blamed and shamed into silence! We will be silent no more!** And this bill gives us a voice. It says, Yes, we have to look at this. This is on us. This is what we were sent here to do. I urge you to vote, yes [on HB1317]."*

Colorado State Senator, Kevin Priola (R)

"I voted against legalization years ago because I didn't want Colorado to be a guinea pig... Colorado's most vulnerable populations are being harmed. High school students report their usual method of using is dabbing concentrates at a rate 3 times higher than adults... the number of vehicle fatalities where marijuana was found to be in the driver's system has increased 135% between 2013 and 2017."



Resource: Colorado General Assembly



Aurora Public Schools

Tammy Wollbrinck, Aurora Public Schools, Colorado

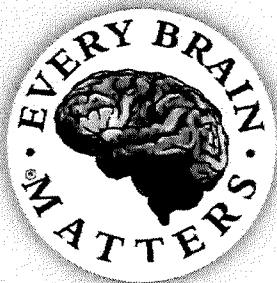
"... I usually feel extremely comfortable with any situations that present in my health clinic. However, the unknowns that have been presented with the newer forms and potency of marijuana really do scare me. Students have come to me crying because they feel like they are having a heart attack. They're having chest pain from severe rapid heartbeat... it sounds like their hearts are beating up against the chest wall. There's that much pressure."



Resource: Twitter

Rob Anderson Boulder Valley School District

"Parents, if you think dabbing is a dance your kids do, you're in the dark... This is dangerous for our kids. These are serious drugs. More and more frequently our teachers, counselors, and parents are hearing from parents crying out for our help. Horror stories from families upon families who are literally losing their kids to these high-level concentrates."



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Putting The Legalizers To The Pinocchio Test

Parents Opposed to Pot's mission is to bust the myths about marijuana. Below, we tackle the lies told by marijuana promoters by shedding light on the truths. Informed parents and their children should learn these truths to counter the most popular lies.



1. It causes death.

The most frequent types of deaths are suicide, murder, traffic fatalities, child abuse deaths, and organ failure from Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS).

2. Marijuana Is NOT safer than alcohol.

The percentage of adults age 21 and over who use marijuana in the U.S. is roughly between 10% and 13%, vs. 65% who use alcohol. Around 10-15% of drinkers have a substance use disorder, vs. 30% of marijuana users who have Cannabis Use Disorder. If people use marijuana to the extent they use alcohol, the damage will surpass the damage caused by alcohol.

3. Marijuana is Addictive.

Since denial is a characteristic of addiction, marijuana addicts often don't know they're addicted. The older studies showed an addiction rate of 9% for adults and 17% for teen who smoked pot. They do not account for the high THC pot of today. Recent studies show that about 30% of current users in the U.S. have Cannabis Use Disorder.

4. Reefer Madness is not an invention

A subset of the population develops psychosis and schizophrenia from using marijuana. No one has figured out who it is and or what the genetic markers might be. Estimates vary, but those susceptible to cannabis induced psychosis range from 3% (with the marijuana of the 70's) to 25% of the population (with the marijuana of today). With dabbing, edibles and other forms used today that rate may go up to 50%. How do we know who can become mentally ill from using marijuana? The truth is we don't know until it happens.

5. Marijuana was not banned because of racism.

Massachusetts banned it in 1911, long before Harvey Anslinger worked to ban marijuana around 1930. Anslinger is the pot industry's excuse to accuse those who are opposed to legalization with racism. It is an accusation that doesn't hold up to scrutiny. California banned in 1913 and New York in 1914. Mexico banned it in 1920.

6. Criminalizing of marijuana possession is not routine...

...or sought after by police. It is, however, used in evidence for other crimes and as a plea bargaining chip. It would be highly unusual to be searched merely for a joint in the pocket or a backpack. New York City formerly used a "stop-and-frisk" policy to hold back crime, but no longer follows that policy. When California voted to legalize pot last year, no one was in jail for low level marijuana possession.

7. Taxation is not a reason for Marijuana Legalization.

According to Andrew Freedman, former head of the Colorado marijuana program, "You do not legalize for taxation. It is a myth. You are not going to pave streets. You are not going to be able to pay teachers.". Indeed the tax on marijuana is about 1/2 of 1 percent of the entire state budget.

8. Black Markets Don't go Away.

Former Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman said: "The criminals are still selling on the black market....we have plenty of cartel activity in Colorado (and) plenty of illegal activity that has not decreased at all." A former prosecutor told us, "Drug dealers are not intimidated by marijuana legalization. On the contrary, they are emboldened by it."

9. Marijuana is not a viable Social Justice issue.

Youth pot use leads to dropping out of school and lower economic success. These well-established facts are confirmed by studies and anecdotal evidence. Pot advocates are really lying to the public and to the minorities. States that have legalized marijuana have the highest rates of homelessness. Furthermore, in Denver, Seattle and Los Angeles, the pot businesses tend to locate in poor communities with the least clout. Since marijuana use is associated with school dropouts and downward mobility, minority groups have the most to lose with the legalization of marijuana.

10. Big Pharma is Not Driving Opposition to Marijuana Legalization.

The strongest opposition to marijuana comes from the families whose loved ones have been harmed by it. Senator Cory Booker takes more money from Big Pharma than any other Democratic Senator and votes in their favor. He also is the Senate's biggest advocate for "medical" marijuana. Today's pot is genetically altered to increase hallucinogenic content and is remarkably different from the weed of the 1970s.



Parents Opposed to Pot bursts the "bubble of the marijuana hype" and counters the false narrative that marijuana is harmless. We know that no amount of marijuana, especially in its current high-THC forms, can be proven safe.
poppot.org @PoppotGroup

Scan here to read this article and for resources.





SAY "NO" TO MARIJUANA EXPANSION

Legal Pot Is More Dangerous and Life-Threatening Than Ever Before

Marijuana Expansion = Harm Expansion

More Fatalities on Roads from Stoned Driving



- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that drugged driving surpassed drunk driving as the cause of fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. The number one drug in those crashes is marijuana.
- In Colorado, traffic deaths with drivers who tested positive for marijuana doubled from 2013 to 2020.
- It is estimated that National legalization of marijuana use would be associated with 6,800 excess roadway deaths each year (Journal of the American Medical Association).

Social Injustice

Pot Shops = Injustice



- The predatory addiction-for-profit marijuana industry targets disadvantaged neighborhoods and is mostly *not* owned by people of color.
 - After Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, minority teens were arrested in greater numbers for marijuana violations.
 - In Colorado, pot shops are disproportionately situated in impoverished communities, clearly making the residents more susceptible to high use rates and addiction. In Denver, for example, pot shops are heavily concentrated in Hispanic communities.
- https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/26840902_1842031249142726_5079672392301664434_o.jpg

Increase in Crime and Violence



- A 2019 study found that the existence of both recreational and medical marijuana shops in Denver neighborhoods is significantly and positively associated with increased crime (Hughes, 2019)
- NIBRS 2012 - 2016: Colorado Criminal offenses increased 27%, Oregon 177%, and Washington 46%.
- Marijuana use is associated with worse outcomes in symptom severity and violent behavior in patients with PTSD.
- Marijuana is associated with intimate partner violence (Shorey et al, 2017).
- Marijuana is the main drug used by perpetrators of childhood death from abuse and/or neglect in Texas, Arizona, and Florida (currently, these are the only states that collect this data. Data compiled on EBM).

Increase in Use-Teens and Young Adults



From NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse)

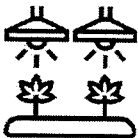
- 6,200,000 daily users in 2009 rose to 13,800,000 daily users in 2019.
- **Teen marijuana vaping has more than doubled since 2013.**
- The national rate for daily marijuana use among young adults who were in middle and high school almost doubled when legalization occurred.

Healthy Kids Colorado Survey:

- **Students who are dabbing THC went from 4.3% of students in 2015 to over 20% in 2019.**
- Statistically significant increases across the state in youth use of edibles and dabbing ultra-potent THC concentrates in 2017 and dabbing and vaping in 2019.
- Increase in kids obtaining and using the dangerous new products produced by the regulated market.
- 21% of youth in the state reported past month use.
- 51.4% said that marijuana was easy for them to get.
- 19.4% of Colorado kids said they'd smoked weed within the last thirty days, but slightly more (53.5%) thought it was easy to obtain.
- In 2019, Pueblo, Colorado saw the highest rate of high-schoolers admitting to using marijuana once or more within the last thirty days, rising to 27%, up slightly from the numbers in 2017.
- Denver's 25.5 %, the second-highest rate among state school districts, reflected a much bigger increase; that percentage was 20.9% in 2017.



Fuels The Black Market

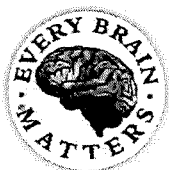


DEA:

- There are 3 current markets: illicit market, state-approved medical marijuana market, and state-approved personal use/recreational market. Traffickers obtain supplies from all three markets, as well as foreign-produced marijuana trafficked into the United States.
- Domestic use of marijuana remains high and is likely to increase as the prevalence of state legalization continues to lower the perception of risks to users and potential users.
- **The availability of high-potency marijuana, marijuana concentrates products, and trendy paraphernalia will likely continue to entice users and potential users.** Domestic production and trafficking of marijuana will likely increase as more states adopt or change current marijuana laws.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA

- Seizures of illegal marijuana in Colorado increased 48%, from an average of 174 parcels (2009-2012) to 257 parcels after marijuana was commercialized (2013-2020).



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Increase in Child Poisoning



Rocky Mountain HIDTA

- In 2018, 60% of youth marijuana exposures involved edibles, compared to just 18% in 2016.
- Even when packaging is compliant with Colorado's regulatory requirements, it fails to discourage or prevent children from accessing potent and dangerous marijuana.
- Much of the packaging is designed to replicate common candies and edibles thus attracting younger users and making it difficult for children to discern what is safe to eat.



Increase in ER Visits and Medical Costs



- Cannabis legalization has led to significant health consequences, particularly to EDs and hospitals in Colorado. The most concerning include psychosis, suicide, and other substance abuse (Roberts 2019).
- Colorado Hospital Emergency Departments from 2012 to 2016 and found a more than 3-fold increase in cannabis-associated ED (<https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acep/95356>)



Increase in Suicides



- In Colorado, the percentage of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for THC has increased from 14% in 2013 to 29% in 2020. (RMHIDTA)
- In San Diego, THC is the number one drug found in completed suicides for people under the age of 25. (San Diego Medical Examiner Data, 2020)
- Nearly 50% of all teen suicides in San Diego County included THC. (San Diego Medical Examiner Data, 2020)

Increase in Addiction and Overdose Crisis



- **Legal medical marijuana, particularly when available through retail dispensaries, is associated with higher opioid mortality. The results for recreational marijuana, while less reliable, also suggest that retail sales through dispensaries are associated with greater death rates relative to the counterfactual of no legal cannabis.** (Mathur et al)
- **Early initiation of marijuana (before 18 years) is the predominant predictor of opioid use disorder.** (Wadekar et al, 2020)
- Medical marijuana states have a 22 % increase in drug overdose deaths. (Shover et al, 2019)
- Colorado overdose deaths were up 54% in 2020. (Colorado Health Institute)
- Marijuana is being laced with fentanyl and is ending up in the hands of high schoolers and youth.

Increase in Mental Illness



- Out of all the drugs that cause temporary psychotic symptoms, cannabis has the highest conversion rate from temporary psychotic symptoms to chronic psychotic disorders like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder: **Cannabis 47%**, amphetamines 32%, hallucinogens 28%, opioids 21% (<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2017.17020223>)
- Marijuana use is associated with worse outcomes in symptom severity and violent behavior in patients with post-traumatic stress disorder. (Wilkinson et al, 2015)
- Dose-response relations between the frequency of adolescent cannabis use and all adverse young adult outcomes, increasing odds of later cannabis dependence, use of other illicit drugs, and suicide attempt (Silins et al, 2014).

Increase in Homelessness



- States with recreational marijuana have higher rates of homelessness than other states. (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness)
- 68% of the mentally-ill homeless are reported to have a schizophrenia spectrum disorder (Viron et al, 2014)



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Policies Matter.

**Colorado Kids Use More Marijuana, Alcohol, and other drugs Than Kansas Kids
Protect Kansas Kids from Promotional Marijuana Bills.**

Stop The Marijuana Expansion in Kansas

Kansas Vs Colorado

Teenagers in Kansas are 19.51% less likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American teen		Teenagers in Colorado are 37.40% more likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American teen.
16,000 or 6.70% of 12- to 17-year-olds report using drugs in the last month.		50,000 or 11.45% of 12- to 17-year-olds report using drugs in the last month.
Among them, 75.00% report using marijuana in the last month.		Among them, 84.00% report using marijuana in the last month.
11.73% of all 12- to 17-year-olds report using marijuana in the last year.		17.40% of all 12- to 17-year-olds report using marijuana in the last year.
18- to 25-year-olds in Kansas are 6.91% less likely to use drugs than the average American in the same age group		18- to 25-year-olds in Colorado are 36.41% MORE likely to use drugs than the average American in the same age group
96,000 adults aged 18- to 25-years-old used drugs in the last month.		286,000 adults aged 18- to 25-years-old used drugs in the last month.
They're 9.92% more likely to use alcohol than the average American in their age group.		They're 15.08% more likely to use alcohol than the average American in their age group.
2.93% of teenagers aged 12- to 17-years-old met the criteria for IDUD in the last year		4.58% of teenagers aged 12- to 17-years-old met the criteria for IDUD in the last year

<https://drugabusestatistics.org/teen-drug-use/#kansas>
https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt32833/Kansas-BH-Barometer_Volume6.pdf

<https://drugabusestatistics.org/teen-drug-use/#colorado>
https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt32822/Colorado-BH-Barometer_Volume6.pdf



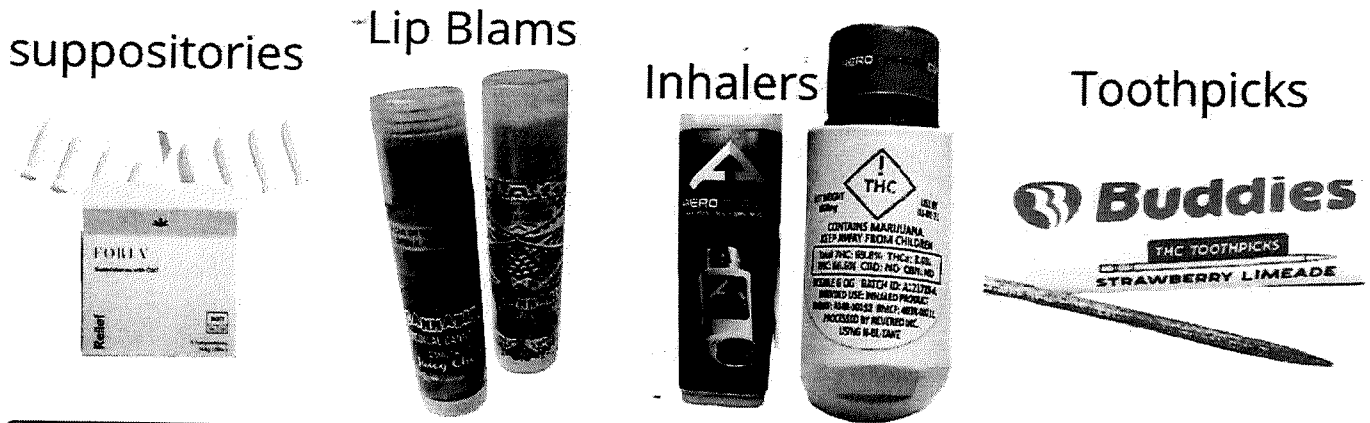
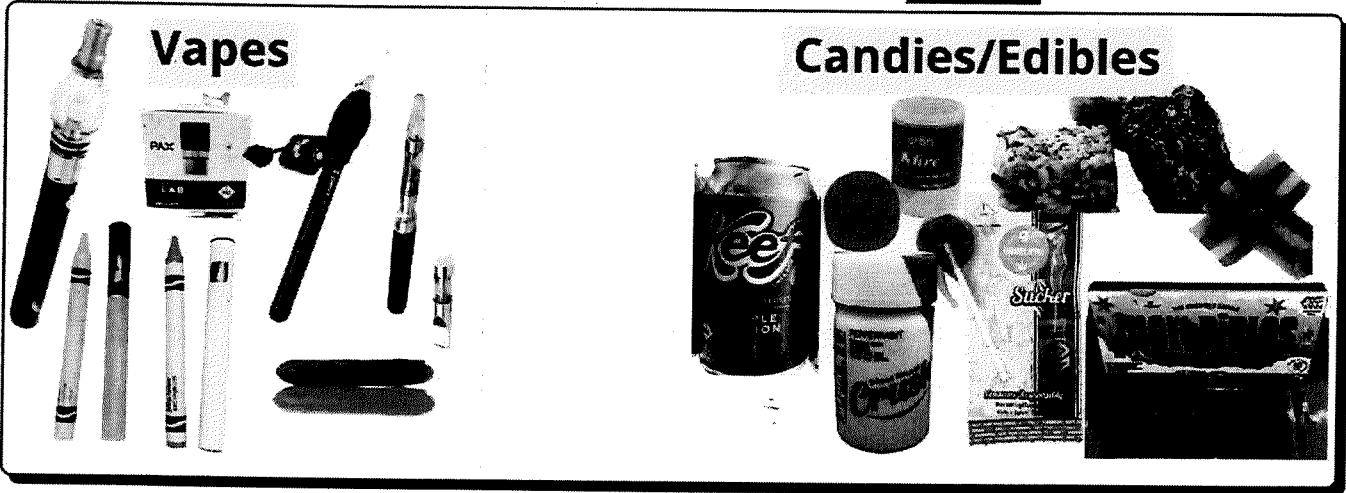
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Today's Marijuana: Addiction Economics

The marijuana industry normalizes its products to look like popular foods and common items like flash drives, highlighters, and lip balms. These products appeal mostly to children and underage youth. They market delivery devices purposely designed to disguise marijuana use from parents, teachers, and employers. To expand their drug industry, they have to target youth with fun, cool, sexy products because they need more and future users in order to increase their profits and be sustainable. In other words, they are predators marketing an addictive drug to our youth in order to make a sustainable profit.



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The Hemp Industry is making New Delta-THC Variants made from CBD

Do not be deceived: Emerging Delta variants like Delta 8, Delta 10, and THC O Acetate are THC.

CBD, which is federally legal today under the protection of the 2018 Farm Bill, can be converted – or “isomerized” – into various THC derivatives. These derivatives – easily available at any smoke shop, convenience store, gas station, and can even be ordered online. Some Hemp businesses are giving free samples – are now being made 3 times stronger by the “acetylation” process. Scan here to see why this is a “big deal” and needs to be addressed.



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