

Dear Members of the House Judiciary,

Thank you so much for allowing me to testify today, Tuesday April 5, 2016 in regards to S-241 marijuana legalization and share a small slice of my professional experience with youth in schools in the field of addiction.

I have attached my notes.....most of which I shared but missed a few points due to time constraints. When I was leaving the room I was hearing follow up discussion about the potential for border states/country (MA and Canada legalizing marijuana) and what implications that has for Vermont. I have a few important updates about this. In MA, the Republican Gov, Charlie Baker, and Dem AG, Maura Healey, along with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh are throwing their names against the initiative. Every major health group that has chimed in so far is against it. So this is far from inevitable. Secondly, in Canada, they've been talking about it for a while but it isn't anywhere near happening -- and questions are emerging about whether or not it is happening at all anymore. They've found it's much harder to implement than previously thought. For a state that prides itself on being independent and doing what's best for Vermonters this thinking is not in line. Here we are the first state to pass the GMO bill and risk being sued because we felt it was right for Vermonters health and safety. Furthermore, if this is such a successful policy, why hasn't any state that borders Colorado legalized?

There seemed to be questions remaining about drug prevention curriculum. Here are some thoughts:

When it comes to drug prevention education, most curricula has very short term behavior impact and must be delivered repeatedly through time - including: Botvin's Life Skills; Protecting You; Protecting Me; Stars; Atlas and Athena; etc.

The number one curricula that shows long-term behavioral use impact that has REDUCED use significantly over a long period of time is the Legacy Foundation's Truth Campaign that exposed the industry tactics that works to capture lifelong repeat customers through our young people.

It is for this reason that the current marijuana curricula is not impactful. The issue is so political that schools and educators have neglected to expose the movement for what it is: an addiction marketing industry seeking government protection to mass produce and aggressively market their addictive products in communities everywhere. Unless curricula includes the industry tactics and strategies working to manipulate the public into thinking this is a harmless, benign drug to be treated like alcohol and tobacco, the youth rates will continue to rise. That's what this whole issue is about - moving niche market use to large population use on the human vulnerability to addiction. The industry's relies on the addiction rates to calculate their billion dollar profit projections. 1 in 6 kids becomes addiction to pot who use it. 3 in 6 kids become addicted to pot for regular users (4 times a week or more). And the developing brain is susceptible to this level of addiction up to age 25 when the brain is fully developed.

By the way, last nights ads from the pro side are what I am talking about.

Think long and hard about how this will better the health and safety of Vermonters!  
Thank you.

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