

Hi my name is Lukas. I am from Winooski High School. I am in 9th grade and I've been involved in the Above the Influence program for three years now.

I want to share my thoughts with you on this bill.

If we didn't have the substance in stores, marketed, we wouldn't need to tax it for prevention. I have seen a lot of kids in school talk about marijuana.

A lot of kids not only vape, but they also smoke marijuana, especially in the bathrooms. I don't know if teachers notice. I have seen it a lot in my apartment building, people using not even an inch away from the building, and just walking back inside.

Not only does it impact them, but it impacts their kids and other people in the building. People feel like nothing can happen to them or people they care about. They think there are no consequences.

I've seen it used in public. I've seen it affect people around me. I've seen people leave their children or people they care about because they didn't make the right decisions and they weren't properly informed.

I don't think marijuana should be retailed because not only is it affecting the people who are actually buying it, who are probably already addicted, but it's also affecting kids.

When they see it in the stores, they will think it is harmless. They'll think, when I'm of age, I'll do that, I'll be cool, I can hang out with people if I do that.

They shouldn't be seeing this stuff.

Kids don't know to think before they act.

They don't realize; they're at a disadvantage.

That's especially why it shouldn't be sold in stores. It affects how adults, but also how kids are looking at it.

If there was more available, even if it's still not allowed for kids, they're going to think it's OK for them, and take what they see from adults or people they look up to, and they're going to want to do it. You'll see it out in public. Kids will want to do it.

The kids are learning from the people they look up to, from adults. They will start to get addicted and when they are adults, they will show their kids and the cycle will go on. They won't realize what it is they're doing until it's too late.

You don't want someone taking on your bad habit. And if you can't personally stop, at least don't make it seem like it's good for others to use.

I want you to be not only aware of the facts, but that there are related health and mental health issues. Marijuana causes not only problems for the people using it, it impacts younger people and others.

I want in the short term to get one person to think about their use. That doesn't sound like much, but it starts off slow, and they could help others to change their habits.

These are all of the reasons I feel it's not appropriate to pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time.