

Dear Representatives of the People of Vermont,

Dear Kathleen James, Dear Cynthia Browning, Dear Dick Sears, Dear Brian Campion, Dear T.J. Donavan,

I am writing this letter because your decisions have crucial effects on the families of Vermont. Issues of far reaching consequences, especially for Vermont's children and youth are being pushed through with rapid fire speed- Like the legalization of marijuana and now the commercialization of this. There may be financial benefits. Yes, but for whom and at what cost?

I have already felt the effects of the marijuana legalization in my own family. One of my offspring that kept her nose clean, stayed away from drinking and drugs, started smoking marijuana because it is legal. If you only knew the battles I have had in life with people that I love having substance abuse issues, you would understand the utter tragedy of this!!! She is of age to do so. She didn't have insurance and she was stressed, so she thought smoking would decrease her anxiety. Now she is pregnant and still smoking or ingesting the pot and doesn't believe it could harm the baby. Why? Because it is legal. And there is enough "Bull" out there to convince her otherwise.

I've also been "lucky" enough to have a Hemp growing operation next door to me. All summer long an unpleasant odor wafted across my back yard. In the fall when the hemp, grown for its CBD content, began to flower the powerful skunk smell reached a crescendo! So much so that someone who worked at The Pharmacy and passed our home every day on their way to work, and knew that we lived in that house, asked my husband why there was always a strong smell of skunk when they went by our home. I live in a residential area inside the town limits not far from the town park.

I LOVE the autumn season. I LOVE the smells of fall. I didn't even want to be outside in my beautiful yard or open my windows...and what will this do to my property value? Will anyone want to buy my house if I put it up for sale and that awful smell was wafting over it?

Why was there such a big push to legalize marijuana? Why is there such a big push to commercialize it? Vermont is one of the worst states in the country for drug use and addictions. How many more of our youth must be lost to drugs? Stop the insanity! No good can come from this!

Wendy Bucchieri  
Arlington, Vermont

P.S. I want you to know, I am not against using the medicinal attributes of hemp for health purposes. The smell cannot be contained and it IS an issue!!! And where there is hemp growing there will also be Marijuana for personal use.

P.P.S. I am bearing my soul to you here. My husband has been sober from pot and alcohol for almost 17 years! Having an operation like this in my neighbor's yard created a huge temptation for him and brought us to the brink of divorce. We have been married for 45 years. And have come through hell and highwater.... The decisions you are making are so fool hardy that I want to scream!!!!!! Who are you representing? Whose agenda are you pushing through?

Last year I hosted a picnic the day after my daughter's wedding. Now that pot is legal in VT, relatives from Connecticut figured it was ok to smoke their weed in my yard. Something they know I disapprove of and a friend who had always been discreet was right there with them. I guess I will never host another picnic again.

Vermont is going the way of California and New York. People are bailing out of those states. Your progressiveness will result in an Exodus. **Mark my words.** You should be battling drugs- not legalizing them.

P.P.P.S. After listening to Dr. Randall of Pueblo Colorado's video, I have to add that I probably lost my brother to marijuana onset schizophrenia. At the age of 14 he started smoking marijuana heavily. (This was the marijuana of the 70's) He would never just smoke a joint, He would not stop till he smoked the whole bag. By the age of 16-17 schizophrenia presented. Later he became a crack addict. He is still alive. I love him. But he is not the brother of my youth. I have deep regrets that I, as the older sister, set the example of smoking pot. I'm sure he looked up to me. I stopped at age 17 because I became pregnant and have not smoked since.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUmiUWzjs1M> The new cannabis What you aren't hearing (shows power point slides clearly)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvRGYakNQfU> Marijuana's impact on youth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1BZw8y6fMo> How Colorado's MJ's legalization strengthened The drug's black market PBS News Hour

We grew up in a home with an alcoholic father. His substance abuse led to uncontrolled anger and physical abuse of our mother culminating in the murder suicide of our parents. We were 4 children left orphans ages 8-15. I was 12.

Children growing up in a home with even **ONE** substance abusing parent are at **HIGH RISK!** I would stake my life on this. Even if some of the children look like they are doing well, I promise you they are fighting every day, invisible prisons of depression, low self-esteem,

feelings of hopelessness and anxiety. They are fragile and easy pickings for drug usage or sex trafficking or marrying someone similar to the using parent.

I smoked the pot of the 70's- so I can't imagine the pot of today. I remember thinking back then, we are acting like old people. Why do we want to smoke something that slows all our responses, memories, speech and be like old people before our time? And why would you, as the people elected to represent us, pass laws that will harm us and our families? I want a war on drugs with decisive actions to defeat this formidable Foe!!!! I have skin in the game, I have family members I want to live and not die! You, it seems are tying the white surrender flag to your bayonets and giving in, FOR MONEY? Why? Tell me why?!

You need to think of yourselves as the mothers and fathers of the Vermonters you represent. Do you care about us? When I found out my youngest daughter was a heroin addict, I wept every day for 18 months straight!!!! Do you weep for us? Do you want our families strong? What the hell are you doing in Montpelier? Say NO to drugs!!! No to prostitution.

My Economic argument:

An average Vermonter does not make much money. Most household incomes are based on 2 or more incomes and would not represent a single mom. A cigarette addiction of one pack of cigarettes/day is  $\$10.00 \times 30 = \$300.00$  If this same household then had a marijuana addiction- well I don't know the price of pot anymore, but I'm sure it would far exceed that \$300.00. Add to that, that marijuana makes people lazy and less motivated- (first- hand knowledge, I see this all the time, especially in pot smoking young men) which then leads to not showing up at work, which leads to financial crises, which lead to high stress relationships, which then lead to abuse, divorce, eviction from rents, homelessness, bad reputations and on and on. No good comes from using recreational substances.

Please do not legalize commercialization of marijuana.

Once again,

Wendy Bucchieri

Arlington, Vermont

(Letter to Vermont GOP from Dr. Randall)

Dear Ms. Billado,

Thank you for having the conviction and strength to express your concerns with regards to the consequences of high potency THC. As an emergency physician in Colorado, I see first-hand the harms. Since legalization, our emergency department has been filled with people suffering the consequences of cannabis. I would imagine that at least 20% of my shift is spent dealing with some sort of adverse reaction/medical illness related to the use/abuse of cannabis (this is more than alcohol and other drug usage combined). Some of the medical harms I have seen: cannabinoid induced hyperemesis (I would imagine that this is seen at least daily in our ED), acute psychosis (this is very significant and violent - the cases I have seen should be cause enough to stop legalization), the youth and adolescent usage (youngest I have seen using - grade school), chronic use in pregnancy, vaping and pulmonary disease, etc.

The most profound issues that are just coming to light are the effects on the children of the chronic users. Our local head start teachers report a 6-8 fold increase in the number of children with explosive disorder, autism spectrum disorders and severe behavioral disorders. This is so very frightening because these children never used but will likely lead an altered, less productive life as a result.

Here is a story that I can share with you. I saw a 5 y/o female brought to the ED in police custody due to severe emotional outbursts and anger (common for this child). She has to have constant dual attendants to attend her head start class. She is being raised by an elderly grandmother who, as you can imagine, is quite scared of this 5 year old. Unfortunately, despite having 49 retail or medical cannabis dispensaries in Pueblo County to produce "revenue from taxes", we don't have enough funds to provide adequate mental and behavioral health care, especially for young children. This child was sedated on her arrival due to her profound agitation. She had a negative urine drug screen. Both her parents are chronic cannabis users (they started with cannabis, continue to use cannabis but also used other drugs). Neither of those parents are involved in this girl's life/care.

It is this kind of problems that the head start teachers are reporting in abundance (mind you, these are 3-5 y/o children). Our youth is being destroyed by their own usage and addictions or by their parental usage and addictions. You are absolutely correct. This high potency THC is quite

damaging. Any tax revenue will be lost when considering the medical costs associated. Truly, the exact costs are unknown. We do know that there is a pattern of psychosis associated with chronic long term use of high potency products.

So, again, thank you for having the courage to speak your convictions. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help with you as you deal with cannabis legalization. As you know, you have many members in your own community who are now experts with regards to the harms being seen related to cannabis usage. You can contact me through my email.

Dr. Karen Randall, FAAEM  
Certified in Cannabis Science and Medicine  
SAMHSA Technical Expert Panel - Cannabis  
VP Case Management SCEMA  
Pueblo, Colorado

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUmiUWzjs1M> The new cannabis What you aren't hearing (shows power point slides clearly)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HEKcxXIZ00> Devastating Impacts of legal Marijuana Pueblo Colorado