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Texas Criminal Justice and Medical Cannabis bills to be heard in committee on April 6 and 7, 2021

Dear CSHT Supporters,

Texas is getting ready to introduce [8 marijuana bills in the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on April the 6th, 2021](#), and [one bill in the Public Health Committee on April the 7th, 2021 at 8 am.](#)

We need your voice. You can either [give oral in-person comments \(information at this link\)](#) at the capital in Austin or [submit a written testimony here](#). Please be aware each bill needs a written separate letter. Below we have provided key points and sample letters for you to copy and paste and use as your own. The bills are listed at the end of this email.

In the last legislative session CSHT did not oppose decriminalization for simple possession bills, but after seeing the deception of the Hemp Industry, and corrupt lobbyist in other states bulldoze their way to full legalization with limited regulations and targeting disadvantaged communities and youth, we recommend that Texas should **HOLD THE LINE** and oppose every bill that comes up.

Please feel free to use any of the following talking points:

*Hold The Line!

*Keep Marijuana Messes Out of Texas!

*Follow The Science which proves, Today's Marijuana Is A Hard Dangerous Drug

*Texans Are Smart, Pro-Family, and Pro-Safety. They don't want the problems of California.

*Stop The Drug Culture Expansion

*[Youth Use increased in legalized states as compared to states without legal recreational marijuana](#)

*[Recreational Marijuana in California was associated with an increase in](#)

[adolescent marijuana use in 2017–2018 and 2018–2019.](#)

*[Colorado youth are now using more potent dangerous marijuana products](#)

manufactured from the marijuana industry, like vapes, candies, and concentrates (dabs/wax/shatter/oils). “Horrible things are happening to kids,” said psychiatrist Libby Stuyt, who treats teens in southwestern Colorado and has studied the health [impacts](#) of high-potency marijuana. “I see increased problems with psychosis, with addiction, with suicide, with depression and anxiety.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/potent-pot-vulnerable-teens-trigger-concerns-in-first-states-to-legalize-marijuana/2019/06/15/52df638a-8c9a-11e9-8f69-a2795fca3343_story.html

Key points opposing the expansion of medical cannabis

1. Medicine is approved by the FDA, doesn't contain contaminants like heavy metals and pesticides, has animal and clinical trials know harms and risks, known dosages, and frequency of use. <https://poppot.org/2020/10/09/is-marijuana-a-true-medicine/>
2. There are already approved medications through the FDA like [Epidiolex](#), [warnings on page 9](#) (CBD oil), [Marinol](#) (synthetic THC), they contain risks.
3. [States fail to regulate CBD and other marijuana products.](#)
4. The only regulated CBD product is [Epidiolex and it has risks.](#)
5. The science shows [marijuana worsens the symptoms of PTSD](#)
6. Former Surgeon General, VADM Jerome Adams says, "No such thing as [medical marijuana](#)".
7. [Opioid overdoses increase in medical marijuana legal states by 22%](#) even prior to Covid.

Key points opposing decriminalization

1. Texas Hemp industry is exploiting loopholes in the law and promoting a new form of marijuana called Delta-8THC to Texas youth, which gets them just as high and just as paranoid as Delta-9 THC, so how can we put our trust in such a deceptive industry?

To learn more, read this [article](#). Listen to this [testimony](#) time frames 9:32 to 16:55

2. Most Texas counties don't have the equipment to determine different levels of THC in each marijuana product and obtaining the right equipment is very costly.
3. Every legalized state has started with decriminalization, ends up with full legalization, and now they are pushing to legalize psychedelics.
4. Decriminalization and lack of resources led to [a mother \(28-year-old\) and 3 of her young sons \(7months, 2-year-old, 5-year-old\) being killed in a firey crash in Houston on Sunday, March 14, 2021.](#) The driver who caused the crash was pulled over by law enforcement for speeding and a small amount of marijuana was surrendered. The driver was let go without being tested for THC and a few minutes later killed this family.
5. [Marijuana is the main drug, by far, used by perpetrators in the state of Texas](#) (page 21).
6. Marijuana is a causal factor for [psychosis](#), which can increase the [risk for](#)

[violence by 20x.](#)

[Read, Tell Your Children The Truth About Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence.](#)

Sample Letter for Marijuana Possession

Name

address

phone

email address

Bill # or #'s

Dear Criminal Jurisprudence Committee Member,

Please opposed bills (HB 99, HB 169, HB 439, HB 441, HB 498. HB 1609, HB 2593, HB 1178) to stop the expansion of marijuana in Texas, and decrease the burdens on taxpayers, families, and children for the following reason:

* [Marijuana is the main drug, by far, used by preparators in childhood deaths from neglect and abuse in the state of Texas.](#) page 21.

*Currently the Texas Hemp industry is working closely with the Colorado Hemp industry and finding loopholes in the laws, as explained in this [New York Times article](#). They are now producing the chemical Delt-8 THC to sell in smoke shops and promote to our children. Please listen to Will, an 18-year-old in recovery, who lives in Houston describe how he got just as high and just as paranoid from Delt-8 THC as he did from Delta-9 THC (the addictive chemicals from the marijuana/cannabis plant). [Will's video listen at 9:30 to 16.:55.](#)

* [A 28-year-old mother and her 3 young children were killed by a driver who was stopped 20 minutes prior to the crash with marijuana in his car.](#) He is currently being charged with three counts of Intoxication Manslaughter and one count of Intoxication Assault. If marijuana wasn't decriminalized in Harris county, this mother and 3 children may still be alive. With more marijuana users in Texas, there will be more fatalities on our roads. [Here's the data from other states.](#)

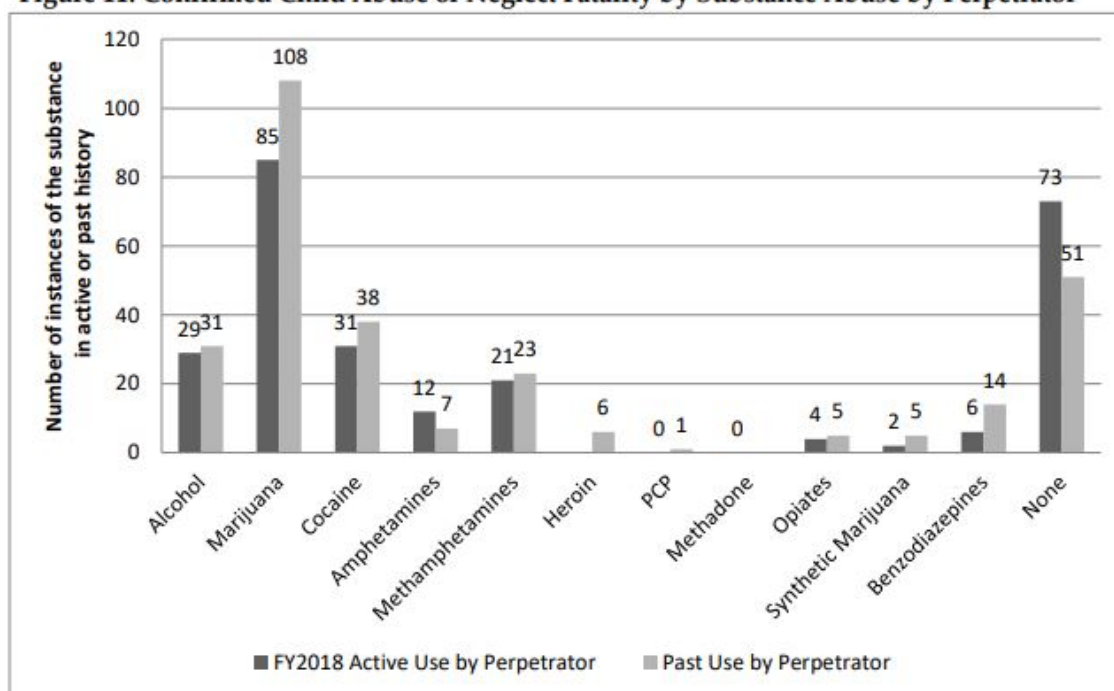
Loosening laws on marijuana is a slippery slope and opens a pathway to full legalization of marijuana and other drugs. This is a clear danger to public health and safety, which will increase costs to taxpayers, and most importantly, puts public health and safety at a greater risk.

Please **Hold The Line** and keep marijuana messes from expanding in Texas. Testing for THC levels will cost the taxpayers greatly and grow our government.

Thank you for your service and time,

For FY2018, 138 of the 211 child fatalities caused by abuse or neglect involved a parent or caregiver actively using a substance and/or under the influence of at least one substance that affected the ability to care for the child. In the tables and chart below, the substance abuse is described by type and if it was reported. Marijuana was the substance most identified as actively being used by the perpetrator (85 cases) in child abuse and neglect-related fatalities. In 21 child fatalities, methamphetamines and amphetamines were being actively used by the caregiver.

Figure 11. Confirmed Child Abuse or Neglect Fatality by Substance Abuse by Perpetrator



Please use this image with the above letter for marijuana possession laws. This is the table that shows marijuana is the main drug, by far, used by perpetrators in childhood deaths from abuse and neglect in the state of Texas. Link to data: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Reports_and_Presentations/PEI/documents/2019/2019-03-01_FY2018_Child_Fatality_and_Near_Fatality_Annual_Report.pdf

Sample Letter for Medical Cannabis

Name
 address
 phone
 email address
 Bill #

Dear Public Health Committee,

Please opposed bill HB 1535.

*Medicine is approved by the FDA, doesn't contain contaminants like heavy metals and pesticides, has animal and human trials, known harms and risks,

known dosages and frequency of use, and isn't decided by anecdotal claims.

*Former Surgeon General, VADM Jerome Adams states, "There Is No Such Thing As Medical Marijuana." Please listen to this [2-minute video](#)

*[Opioid overdoses have increased in medical marijuana states](#). Marijuana proponents like to cite a study that looked at trends up to 2014, but when you expand the data to 2017, you see that opioid overdose has increased by 22% even prior to the Covid crisis.

*Science shows [marijuana worsens PTSD symptoms](#).

Calling a drug medicine is a dangerous message. All medication should be determined by science, not public opinion. There is no need to expand marijuana laws for medical purposes because there are already FDA-approved medications like Epidiolex and Marinol that can be prescribed by a medical professional. When people are suffering from illnesses, it's important that they are monitored by medical professionals as THC can cause [psychosis](#) and increase the risk for [suicide](#) up to 7 fold.

Thank you for your service and time,

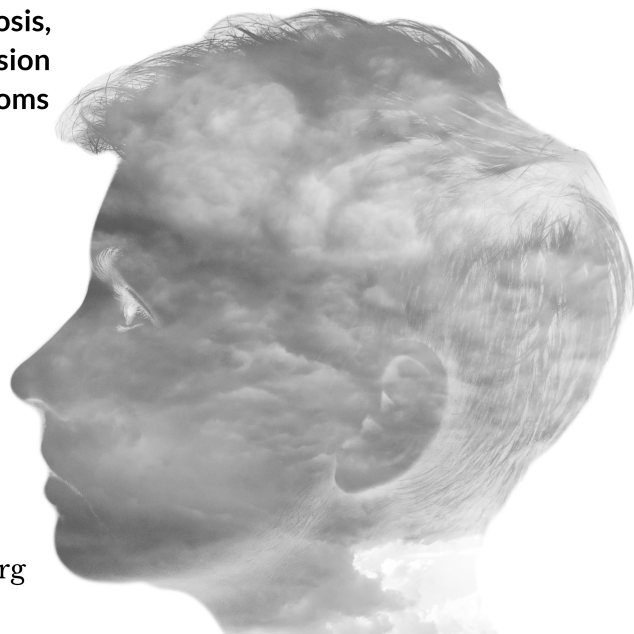
Of all the drugs that can induce psychosis, cannabis results in the highest conversion rate from temporary psychotic symptoms to a chronic psychotic disorder like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2017.17020223>

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Conversion Rate</u>
cannabis	47%
amphetamine	32%
hallucinogens	28%
opioids	21%



EveryBrainMatters.org



Please use this image with the above letter.

The current bills being introduced in committee:

[Tuesday, April 6, 2021, will see the Criminal Jurisprudence](#) committee holding a meeting to hear testimony on a number of bills relating to marijuana possession.

[HB 99](#) *Toth I et al.*

Relating to the possession of two ounces or less of marihuana; authorizing a fee.

[HB 169](#) *Thompson, Senfronia I et al.*

Relating to the criminal penalties for the possession of small amounts of Penalty Group 1 controlled substances and marihuana.

[HB 439](#) *Canales*

Relating to the criminal penalties for possession or delivery of marihuana and marihuana concentrate.

[HB 441](#) *Zwiener I et al.*

Relating to the criminal and licensing consequences of certain marihuana possession and drug paraphernalia possession offenses; imposing a fee.

[HB 498](#) *Wu*

Relating to the prosecution of and penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marihuana.

[HB 1609](#) *Crockett*

Relating to the criminal penalties for possession of marihuana.

[HB 2593](#) *Moody I et al.*

Relating to the criminal penalties for the possession of certain tetrahydrocannabinol under the Texas Controlled Substances Act.

[HB 1178](#) *Crockett*

Relating to removing criminal penalties for the possession of drug paraphernalia under the Texas Controlled Substances Act.

Medical Cannabis

On [Wednesday, April 7, 2021, the Public Health Committee](#) will be hearing Representative Stephanie Klick's TCUP bill at 8 AM.

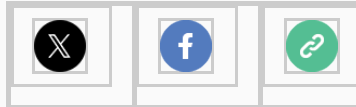
[HB 1535](#) *Klick I et al.*

Relating to the medical use of low-THC cannabis by patients with certain medical conditions and the establishment of compassionate-use institutional review boards to evaluate and approve proposed research programs to study the medical use of low-THC cannabis in the treatment of certain patients.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this entire email. That shows your dedication and commitment to the health and safety of the awesome state of Texas! If you have any questions please contact us at info@safehealthytexas.org

Aubree Adams

Bronwen Skinner
Jesse LaBlanc



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