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## URGENT! Testify or submit comments to oppose full legalization of marijuana in Texas The Hearing is on Wednesday, 4/26/2023

Submit public comments at this link.

If you can make it to Austin, Texas, on 4/26/2023. This is how you register to speak. Please get there early.

You can use the sample letter and/or the information provided below to oppose HB 3652.

Submit this letter at this link.

Dear Texas Representative,

I urgently ask you to oppose <u>HB 3652</u>, the legalization of cannabis. HB 3652 will allow the predatory addiction-for-profit marijuana industry to promote more marijuana use and target youth with flavored vapes and candies. Vapes and candies are designed to disguise the foul taste and conceal use from parents, educators, and employers.

There are many reasons to oppose this *HARM EXPANSION* bill. Here are just a few.

- <u>Marijuana with a THC content over 10% increases the risk of a psychotic</u> disorder, like schizophrenia, by 4 to 5-fold
- 30% of users are becoming addicted to THC, which is called cannabis use disorder.
- Marijuana users are more vulnerable to addiction to other addictive substances, even opioid use disorder.

- State legal products are so toxic; people are developing <u>cannabinoid</u>
  <u>hyperemesis syndrome</u>, severe vomiting, and GI issues condition, which
  can lead to organ failure and death.
- Marijuana legalization causes more road fatalities. <u>In Colorado, Traffic deaths with drivers who test positive for marijuana doubled from 2013 to 2020.</u>
- Marijuana use increases the risk of suicide by up 7-fold.
  - Marijuana is the main drug found in suicide deaths for Colorado teens.
- Adolescent cannabis use is increasing.
  - Cannabis abuse has increased by 245% since 2000. Clinical Toxicology 05 Dec
  - Frequent adolescents' cannabis vaping jumped over two-and-a-half times from 2017 to 2019, Monitoring The Future 2022
  - occasional adolescent cannabis vaping climbed more than 291% in 2022, Monitoring The Future 2022
- Young adult cannabis use is increasing, according to Monitoring The Future 2022:
  - past year use: 29% in 2011 to 43% in 2021
  - past month use: 17% in 2011, 17% to 29% in 2021
  - daily use 6 % in 2011 to 11% in 2021
  - vaping marijuana past month 6% in 2017 to 12% in 2021
- Marijuana legalization only provides a cover and invites criminal operations to manufacture and traffic more marijuana in Texas neighborhoods.
  - DEA states: Domestic production and trafficking of marijuana will likely increase as more states adopt or change current marijuana laws to establish medical or recreational marijuana markets, allowing criminals to exploit state legality.
- Marijuana is a factor in the increase in violence.

High concentrations of THC (products that contain 10mg or higher) are not proven safe for adults to use. A 10% tax rate will not cover the social, mental, and physical costs.

Vote NO to HB 3652.

Thank you,

Other important information about this bill.

## 2.5 oz of cannabis flower or 15 g of cannabis concentrates is a very large amount of marijuana that can easily get into the hands of youth and fuel the black market.

- 2.5 oz of dry marijuana equals about 150 joints

A joint from the 1990s had about 5% THC which equals 50 mg of THC in each joint. Today's joint is at least 4 times stronger (20% THC), so each joint in today's market has

150 joints x 200 mg THC = **up 30,000 mg of THC!** 

-15 grams of THC concentrates (vapes, dabs, candies) equals about 960 joints continuing 200 milligrams of THC, but remember that most THC concentrates are 60% THC or higher.

960 joints x 200 mg of THC equals a *minimum of 192,000 milligrams of THC*. This is an outrageous amount of THC!

Learn more at this link.

https://www.safehealthytexas.org/call-to-action/

Thank you,

Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Texas safeandhealthytx@gmail.com

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## Our mailing address is:

Freestyle Foundation C/O CSHT 6710 Virginia Parkway Ste 215-7, McKinney, Tx 75071

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