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CITIZENS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY TEXAS



UNITING AND EDUCATING COMMUNITIES ON THE TRUE IMPACTS OF MARIJUANA.

Historic Colorado Bill Sends Another Ripple Around The World

Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Texas would like to alert their viewers of this important change in Colorado and give a bigger platform to the professionals, legislators, and families who spoke up.

On May 18, 2021, Colorado Speaker of The House Alec Garnett introduced [HB21-1317](#), "Regulating Marijuana Concentrates", a grassroots bipartisan bill supported by over [50 Colorado organizations](#). A tidal wave of Colorado youth and families testified in support of the bill, sharing their personal stories of the horrific outcomes of Colorado's high-potency legal marijuana. [On June, 24, 2021](#) [HB21-1317](#) was signed into law.

[La'fonna Pacheco, a Colorado mom, and social worker](#) described the horrific toll [high-potency marijuana had on many families](#). She stated, "...***our children are being used as sacrificial lambs...***" La'Fonna also described how marijuana affected her daughter, "***She became distant, isolated,... like a spell of addiction... her friends described her as being on crack, but she was on THC... I had my daughter's best interest at heart but other people did not have her best interest at heart. They told her it was a force for***

good, for the money it was bringing in... By the time we sought treatment, my daughter was experiencing psychosis. After 5 stints of rehab,... that we're still paying off to this day, I'm proud to say that my daughter has been clean for a year..."



Colorado Attorney General, Philip J. Weiser stated, ***"The rise of teenage use of high-potency concentration THC marijuana is a critical public health challenge that demands action."*** *The Colorado Healthy Healthy Kids Survey reported that students who are dabbing THC went from 4.3% of students in 2015 to over 20% in 2019. This is an alarming rise. Medical marijuana laws have enabled this troubling trend.*



Dr. Chris Rogers, Medical Director of Child and Adolescent Services at the Medical Center of Aurora Colorado, the largest non-publicly own psychiatric hospital in the state of Colorado, stated, ***"I support reasonable regulations that put a halt to unsafe practices that sacrifice the lives of Coloradoans***

for reckless profits". Then describes the reality of legal marijuana, "Inpatient psychiatrists have a front-row seat to the emerging epidemic of cannabis abuse and addiction that threatens to swallow the lives of a whole generation of Coloradans. On our adult inpatient unit, it's hard to keep count of the number of psychotic and suicidal patients that are admitted with THC on board, and regardless of the data and clear evidence of how cannabis contributes to their illness, person after person refuses to accept that marijuana could be bad for them. How could it be? They've been taught to believe this is a harmless plant and a medicine that it at is good for everything from headaches, to cancer, to anxiety. It's natural, without side effects without the risk of addiction. This is the lie that is ruining the lives of far too many people in our state. The story on our adolescent unit is even more tragic, as we repeatedly treat kids that are too psychotic to know what's real, who they can trust, or where they are. The rates of adolescent psychosis have risen steadily since legalization in almost every case it's linked to high potency THC concentrates. Products known as dabs, wax, and shatter that are made in the lab by distilling down the most psychoactive component of the marijuana plant and concentrated into what's better described as a hard drug that the "weed" people voted for with Amendment 64..."



Tammy Wollbrinck Colorado Association of School Nurses "... with my history, I usually feel extremely comfortable with any situations that present in my health clinic. However, the unknowns that have been presented with the newer forms and potency of marijuana really do scare me. Students have come to me crying because they feel like they are having a heart attack. They're having chest pain from severe rapid heartbeat... it sounds like their hearts are beating up against the chest wall. There's that much pressure. Occasionally, the heart rate is so rapid, it's difficult to count.

I've seen blood pressure readings ranging from 80/60 to 220/108... temperatures are normal or up to 100, pupils are often dilated... eyes make repetitive controlled movements and the student is unable to focus on objects. They also were unable to pass the Near Points Convergence test which is a test used to assess if the individual's eyes are able to work together... double vision... eyes glassy ... slurred loud speech.. extremely confused... these symptoms that I see are extremely reminiscent to the care that I gave the patients that were suffering from cocaine-induced heart attacks during my emergency department days....”



This bill will:

- tighten up regulations on medical marijuana for ages 18-20 year-olds, call for specific potency and doses, and a review of a person's medical history from two physicians

- change the daily purchase amount of marijuana concentrates from 8 grams a day to 2 grams a day for 18- 20 years-olds

- decrease the risk of looping with updating that date base at the point of sale and decrease diversions into the illegal market

- decrease high-potency products on high school campuses.

- call for the toxicology reports on all persons under the age of 25 who have died from unnatural causes to be collected

- call for a meta-analysis from the Colorado School of Public Health to study potency levels in THC concentrated products. To Summarize: “The bill requires the Colorado School of Public Health to do a systematic review of the scientific research related to the physical and mental health effects of high-potency THC marijuana and concentrates. The bill creates a scientific review council to review the report and make recommendations to the general assembly. Based on the research and findings, the Colorado School of Public Health shall produce a public education campaign for the general public, to be approved by the council, regarding the effect of high-potency THC marijuana on the developing brain and mental health.”

Please click below to listen to the full recording of the press conference.
Subscribe to the [Every Brain Matters YouTube](#) channel for shorter clips.



Since Colorado legalized marijuana, many professionals, medical organizations, communities, and advocates have been speaking up. A courageous group of doctors from southern Colorado have been traveling to other states and countries sounding the alarm about the harms of marijuana legalization because they saw firsthand the devastating effects. Hats off to everyone who has brought awareness to this issue from the beginning to today's victory.

This information was first published by [Every Brain Matters](#) who was not involved with this bill directly but recorded the press conference to bring awareness.

Every Brain Matters states. *"We are grateful to everyone involved in developing HB21- 1317. A special thanks goes out to Smart Colorado/One Chance To Grow Up, Blue Rising, Speaker of the House Alec Garnett, Representative Dr. Yadira Caraveo, Senator Chris Hansen, and Senator Paul Lundeen, and all the other legislators for the creation and success of HB 1317."*

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