

Dear Environment, Climate and Legacy committee:

Attached is testimony for Thursdays committee meeting. Also attached are handouts that point to the 10 year crime wave especially in drug busts in Colorado, as well as, newspapers accounts of the problems there.

Please consider the potency, age considerations and the many problems in the bill that will only cause more problems for taxpayers of Minnesota., especially addiction problems in our youth.

Thanks for your attention,

Linda Stanton, volunteer
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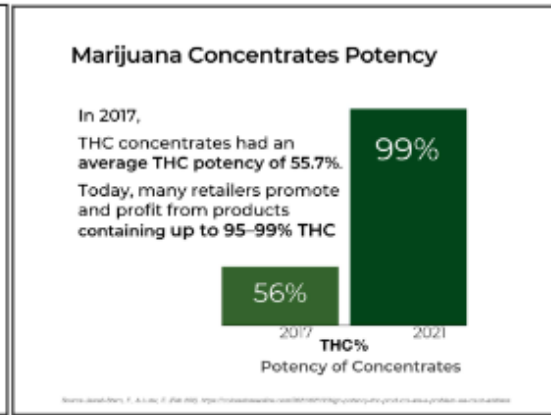
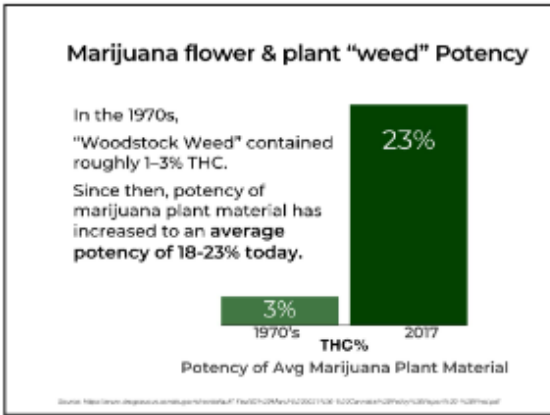
<https://www.sammn.org/>



SAMMn.org
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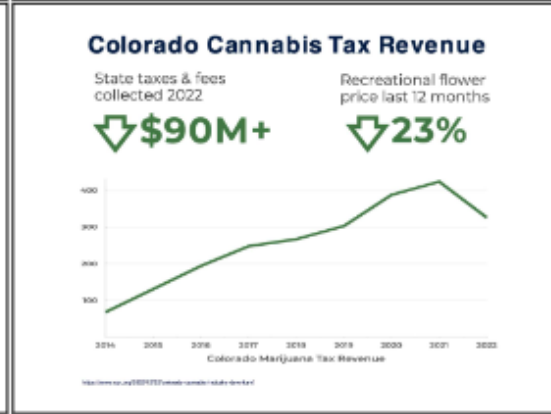
- **Randy Michael Bacchus – Forever 21 years old**
- Died by suicide and was in **Cannabis Induced Psychosis**
- Started smoking at the **age of 15, high potency THC** products
- Diagnosed with a **Cannabis Use Disorder** by the time he was 16.
- First psychotic break at 19.
- Hospitalized in April of 2021 for suicidal ideation and plan
- Put on a 5150 hold
- Released after 24 hours; no beds available
- Had a registered gun; never in trouble with the law – the system is broken
- Always held a job although that got tougher and tougher as days went by.
- When he took his life, he had low levels of THC in his system; evidence he was trying to quit.
- The impact of marijuana continues even when users stop using it – it changes (damages) their brains.



Marijuana is involved in more than one of every four roads deaths in Colorado

A study found that nationwide legalization would be associated with 6,800 excess roadway deaths annually

1/4



Tax Revenue vs Reality

For every \$1.00 brought in by marijuana state tax revenue

\$4.50 is spent to mitigate effects of legalization (societal costs)

Marijuana companies specifically target young people

Since 2017, Colorado's marijuana use among those aged 15 or younger has increased 14.8%

15%

5x Youth who are exposed to marijuana marketing on social media are five times more likely to use marijuana.

Marijuana use among Adolescents

From the 2021 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Monitoring the Future Survey

7.1% 17.3% 30.5%

8th Graders 10th Graders 12th Graders

Source: <https://www.drugabuse.org/press-releases/2022/07/marijuana-use-among-adolescents/>



280,000 young adults ages 18-35:

Cannabis use was associated with increased risk of thoughts of suicide, suicide plan, and suicide attempt (regardless of whether someone was experiencing depression).

Source: <https://www.drugabuse.org/press-releases/2022/07/marijuana-use-among-adolescents/>

One study found cases of Cannabis Use Disorder in young people in "legal" states grew 25% following legalization.

Source: <https://www.drugabuse.org/press-releases/2022/07/marijuana-use-among-adolescents/>

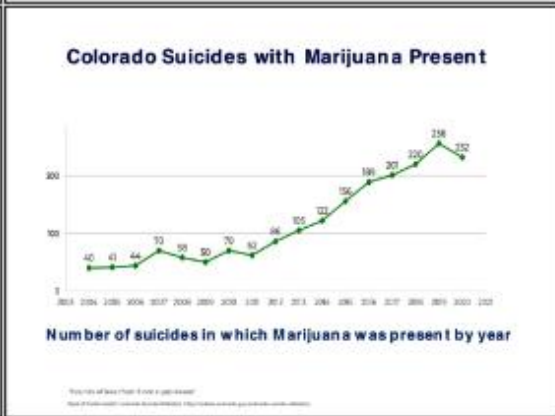
The Impact of Adolescent Cannabis Use, Mood Disorder, and Lack of Education on Attempted Suicide in Young Adulthood - World Psychiatry, Oct 2016

700 teens ages 12-15:

Marijuana use in those who weren't depressed before increased the risk of suicide attempt 7.5-fold

Any use on cannabis in the early adolescent period is a strong independent predictor of attempted suicide in young adulthood.

Source: <https://www.drugabuse.org/press-releases/2022/07/marijuana-use-among-adolescents/>



Contributing Factors to Marijuana Dependence and Mental Illness

1. Age of Onset
2. Frequency of Use
3. THC Potency

Today's products – a designer drug available in many forms and appealing to youth.