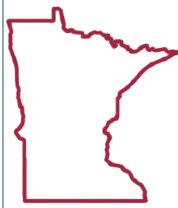


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SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
MINNESOTA
preventing another big tobacco

April 13,
2023



DEMYSTIFYING CANNABIS BILL MYTHS - COMMENTARY

Bill proponents argue: “cannabis prohibition has never helped anyone,” and “the war on drugs isn’t working.” The proposed remedy for fixing the perceived harm caused by cannabis prohibition is a special blend of state regulations, taxation, and educational programs that hopes to eliminate the illegal market, promote social justice and usher in a new era of public health and safety.

Our Canadian neighbors thought they enacted a harm-reduction law when they ended cannabis prohibition in 2018. Despite strict regulations, low taxation and investment in education that exceeds Minnesota’s legislation, pediatric hospitalization rates for cannabis poisoning tripled following legalization (Myran et al. *JAMA Health Forum*, 2023). It’s noncontroversial to believe that legalizing adult-use cannabis would increase the odds of children having access to tasty cannabis edibles that are left on the floor by careless or

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BIDEN SIGNS ACT ALLOWING RESEARCH

Must Minnesota first legalize adult-use cannabis in order to study its effects? An extensive body of medical research already documents the link between cannabis use and increased risk for various acute and long-term harms. (Fischer et al. *Int. J. of Drug Policy*, 2022) In regards to studying cannabis as a therapeutic agent, the federal **Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act** will allow registered universities, clinicians, and manufacturing companies to manufacture and distribute marijuana or cannabidiol (CBD) for the purposes of medical research. The Act, which was signed into law December 2022, will promote the development of U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved drugs that use or are derived from CBD and marijuana. States are not required to legalize cannabis for the University of Minnesota or other research entity to advance the science. Importantly, marijuana’s federal Schedule I status will not change.

NEXT PAGE: BUDGET NEEDS

FACTS:

- ◇ Canada: pediatric hospitalization rates for cannabis poisoning tripled following legalization (Myran et al. *JAMA Health Forum*, 2023).
- ◇ CA cannabis-related emergency room visits among the adult senior population: The overall rate per 100,000 visits increased a whopping 1,804% from 2005 to 2019 (Han et al. *J. of the Am. Geriatrics Society*, 2023).
- ◇ Association between cannabis use and cardiovascular disease. There are over 60 case reports in the medical literature of people suffering from heart attacks during or shortly after using cannabis, some events resulting in death.

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impaired adults. I suspect toddlers traumatized by a hospital stay, 15% of whom require ICU support, would love to have prohibition back.

“No one has died from cannabis use” is a claim made by some bill authors that is not only false, but also insensitive to families who have lost loved ones to cannabis use. A quick google and Pub-Med search yielded five case reports of children who died as a direct result of cannabis use or exposure.

In addition, researchers have found a significant association between cannabis use and cardiovascular disease. There are over 60 case reports in the medical literature of people suffering from heart attacks during or shortly after using cannabis, some events resulting in death. Very concerning is the mean age of the people having heart attacks in these reported cases is only 28 years old (Patel et al. *Trends in Cardiovascular Research*, 2020).

The American Heart Association published a scientific cautionary statement about cannabis and cardiovascular health in 2020. Since heart disease is the number one cause of death in the U.S., the strong likelihood of cannabis use being an independent risk factor for the development of coronary artery disease and heart attack has major policy and public health implications.

As a physician who counsels patients about healthy habits, I’m disappointed to see some legislators and Gov. Walz working to commercialize another addictive, harmful substance. Minnesota is not prepared to legalize a drug that will increase hospitalizations, inflate healthcare costs, and deepen Minnesota’s mental health crisis. If you value health and public safety, please ask your representatives to oppose the adult-use cannabis bill.

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GRANTS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT NEEDS

The table below shows spending gaps in the proposed bill for Cannabis Prevention Efforts

Tobacco Prevention Efforts (State and Health Care Partners)	Per Pupil Spending/year	Cannabis Prevention Efforts <u>Proposed funding</u>	Spending/year
\$11,687,177	\$39.39 - 2022	\$2,998,000	\$10.10 - 2026

The table below shows the spending gap in proposed funding for substance abuse treatment in the Cannabis bill.

Fairview Riverside 12 weeks – 1 hour outpatient group treatment	Substance abuse treatment for those impacted PROPOSED funds:	Estimated amount of resources needed
\$19,050 for 989 high school students	\$4,000,000	\$18,783,300