

Colorado Begins Legislation to Address A "Critical Public Health Challenge" Due to Marijuana Legalization:

On May 18, 2021, Colorado Speaker of The House Alec Garnett held a press conference to introduce HB21-1317, *Regulating Marijuana Concentrates*, a grassroots bi-partisan bill supported by over 50 Colorado organizations from both sides of the aisle. A tidal wave of Colorado youth and families testified in support of the bill, sharing their personal stories of the horrific outcomes caused by Colorado's high-potency legal marijuana products. On June 24, 2021, HB21-1317 was signed into law by Governor Jared Polis.



Resource:
Colorado General Assembly

Speaker of the House, Alec Garnett (D)

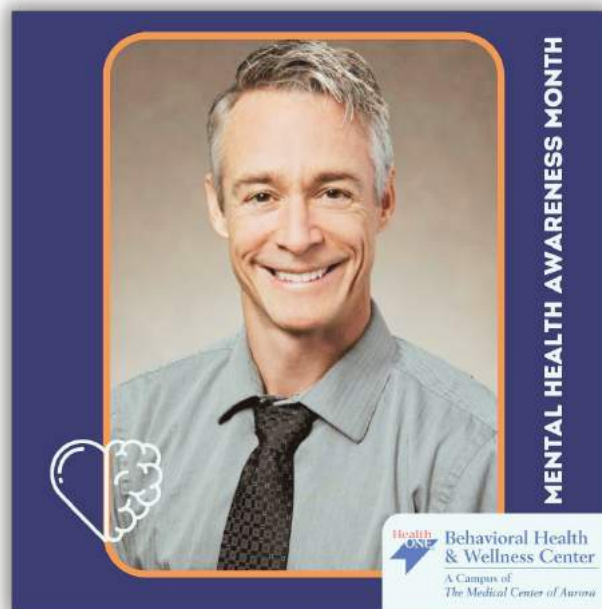
"...individuals that are able to buy 40 grams of high potency concentrates from every dispensary that they can get to before the close of business, and the concern that those products are being peddled to the black market to high school campus across Colorado."

Philip J. Weiser, Colorado Attorney General (D)

"The rise of teenage use of high-potency concentration THC marijuana is a critical public health challenge that demands action." *The Colorado 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."*



Resource: Wikipedia



Source: Facebook

Dr. Chris Rogers, Medical Director of Child and Adolescent Services at the Medical Center of Aurora, Colorado

*"...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 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, and 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 (is not) the 'weed' people voted for with Amendment 64..."



Resource:
Colorado General Assembly

Colorado State Representative, Dr. Yadira Caraveo (D)

"I've noticed more and more that the young people in my clinic have begun using them more regularly and are using stronger products. They tell me about vaping and dabbing, they tell me how their friends do this in school... and in this last year alone I've been involved with 2 patients that had serious health effects from these products."

La'fonna Pacheco, Colorado mom, and Social Worker

"...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 five 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..."



Source: Facebook



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Every Brain Matters is a community of support, advocacy, and science. Join us, as we call for a cultural change. Our logo unites us and symbolizes both "freedom from marijuana" and optimal brain and environmental health.

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March 1, 2022

To view all these video testimonies and more on Colorado HB-1317, please scan here
or go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHQPpGJU3SE&list=PLjsZxUuf9e18V1eZhKGOoOguOXzCvaeWl
and it will take you to the Every Brain Matters-HB1317 playlist.



Resource: Colorado General Assembly

Colorado State Senator Rhonda Fields (D)

"It's not good for the well-being of our young people, and when they are exposed to it, sometimes it [marijuana] can throw them into a psychotic episode... I don't want any child to access something that is dangerous or harmful. And we should all want that for the state of Colorado."



Resource: Colorado General Assembly

Colorado Representative Judy Amabile (D)

*"...we tried everything in our power to stop his [her son] marijuana use... But we couldn't stop his use... everywhere he went this product was available in greater and greater concentrations and potency...after his 1st psychotic break we sent him to a hospital ...for 6 weeks and it cost us \$60,000 and they didn't fix it; they couldn't fix it. Today he has schizoaffective disorder with co-occurring substance misuse, and he will never recover, and our family is broken as a result and we will never be made whole. So, let's not talk about him because it's too late for him; let's talk instead about your children and the thousands of children being negatively impacted by the use of marijuana. **It's a real thing...thousands of parents are being affected by this and we are done being blamed and shamed into silence! We will be silent no more!** And this bill gives us a voice. It says, Yes, we have to look at this. This is on us. This is what we were sent here to do. I urge you to vote, yes [on HB1317]."*



Resource: Colorado General Assembly

Colorado State Senator, Kevin Priola (R)

"I voted against legalization years ago because I didn't want Colorado to be a guinea pig... Colorado's most vulnerable populations are being harmed. High school students report their usual method of using is dabbing concentrates at a rate 3 times higher than adults... the number of vehicle fatalities where marijuana was found to be in the driver's system has increased 135% between 2013 and 2017."



Aurora PublicSchools

Tammy Wollbrinck, Aurora Public Schools, Colorado

".. , 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."



Resource: Twitter

Rob Anderson Boulder Valley School District

" Parents, if you think dabbing is a dance your kids do, you're in the dark...This is dangerous for our kids. These are serious drugs. More and more frequently our teachers, counselors, and parents are hearing from parents crying out for our help. Horror stories from families upon families who are literally losing their kids to these high-level concentrates.."



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