

Every Brain Matters  
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Honorable Merrick Garland  
US Attorney General US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

31 October 2023

Dear Honorable Merrick Garland,

To protect public health and safety, we ask you not to reschedule marijuana for the following reasons.

Marijuana is an addictive drug. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, up to 30% of users develop some degree of Cannabis Use Disorder, which includes problematic abuse, dependence, and addiction. But even more than that, marijuana primes the brain for other addictions, and the younger the user is, the worse the damage can be. Individuals who initiate use before the age of 18 are up to 7 times more likely to develop a substance use disorder.

Science does not support marijuana as a safe and effective medicine. Research has shown that for many of the conditions that marijuana supposedly treats, using the drug actually makes things worse:

- Interferes with cancer treatment
- Sickens people with Crohn's Disease
- Worsens PTSD symptoms and outcomes
- Deepens depression
- Increases anxiety
- Hinders recovery from SUD
- No better than a placebo at relieving pain
- Induces seizures
- Hinders antiviral treatment for HIV/AIDS

Marijuana is a dangerous drug. There is a mountain of scientific evidence that clearly shows that marijuana use is associated with a host of negative consequences to both physical and mental health, like cannabis-induced psychosis and its link to schizophrenia and cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome.

Driving while impaired by marijuana threatens public safety. In California, marijuana-involved crashes with injuries increased by 142%. In Massachusetts, marijuana is the most commonly found drug present in the system of drivers involved in deadly traffic crashes. In Colorado, marijuana-drugged driving arrests increased by 48%.

The dangers of marijuana are alarmingly obvious. It is clear that there is no basis for rescheduling marijuana, especially during our country's current drug and mental illness crisis. The vast majority of the so-called "benefits" of the drug are a false narrative pushed by special interest groups that stand to profit from expanded access while our families pay the price with their health and their lives.

The Every Brain Matters, Moms Strong, and Jennifer's Messengers communities were developed by families whose loved ones have died or who have been damaged by the effects of marijuana. We reject the narrative that marijuana is a harmless expression of personal freedom. Based on the latest scientific evidence and personal stories, our position is that marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug, and like all drugs of abuse, it can destroy lives.

Thank you,

Aubree Adams, Director of Every Brain Matters

Lori Robinson, Director of Moms Strong

Corinne LaMarca, Director of Jennifer's Messengers

Randy and Heather Bacchus, Directors of Be Extraordinary, Be You!

