

Informational, HB0032

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Dear Maryland Legislator,

My name is Aubree Adams, I'm a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant that has treated pain and I have special training in pelvic floor dysfunction. Due to my volunteer work and passion, I am now assistant Director of [Every Brain Matters](#), a project of Parents Opposed to Pot. I'm part of a parent-driven recovery community and I host kids in recovery in my home.

Most importantly I'm a former Colorado mom and have firsthand experience of how legal marijuana harms a family and a community. I moved out of Colorado in 2018 because of the promotional policy of marijuana and lack of treatment for addiction. In this letter, I represent myself and no other organization.

I strongly advise you to consider the harms you will see if you enact HB-0032, which allows the home growing and commercialization of marijuana because of the following facts:

- 1. It allows a predatory addiction-for-profit industry to target and market to our kids**
- 2. Home grows are extremely difficult to regulate, as I witnessed when Cuban cartels moved into houses in my Pueblo, Colorado neighborhood, pretending to be "homes" and growing dozens of plants out of sight of regulators.**
- 3. Marijuana is a significant factor in the increase of teenage visits to Emergency Departments because of psychiatric episodes, including psychotic breaks and a growing factor in the increase of Colorado teen suicides. I know this from personal experience with one of my sons.**
- 4. Marijuana commercialization increases crime.**

Source: <https://www.thenmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/RMHIDTA-Marijuana-Report-2020-2.pdf>

My son started using marijuana edibles in the 8th grade soon after legalization, and then he began self-harming. We did not know he was using marijuana because the industry makes products in deceptive forms to disguise use.

By Feb 2015 my son was irrational, paranoid, repeating things that did not make sense, which I now know is termed a psychotic break, and one night he was so violent towards his younger brother that his brother ran barefoot through the snow to get away from him.

He attempted suicide and was hospitalized, when he was discharged, he was still suicidal, and I took him back to the ER where I was told **"It's Just Marijuana"** and was sent home. Within a

few days, my son was hospitalized again in a different town because there were no available beds in our town.

He told me he was using dabs and he knew they were making him feel crazy and he was trying to quit. He described dabs as strong marijuana, and call them, crack weed.

Dabs are high concentrated THC products massed produced, and appeal to teens despite the regulations.

I volunteered my family for crises intervention with the department of social service because I couldn't find treatment for marijuana abuse.

My son had developed the pediatric disease of addiction and by the next year he was not only using marijuana, but he was using meth and heroin. Marijuana kills and is a gateway to more drugs and pharmaceutical drugs.

My son allows me to tell his story because he wants the nation to know that marijuana is deadly, harmful and can change you forever with delusional thinking, hallucinations, and an increase risk for suicide, depression, and addiction.

My husband also allows me to tell his story. He read that marijuana would help his panic attacks, but marijuana harmed him, and he now suffers from severe depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

[Colorado kids have now progressed to More Potent Pot like candies and vapes. The state marijuana use rate is almost 21% and now more than half of those kids use high concentrated THC products designed, manufactured, marketed, and sold by the addiction-for-profit marijuana industry.](#) We did not have this kind of accessibility prior to legalization of such dangerous products for people of all ages.

My old community of [Pueblo has pot scholarships for every high school senior](#). It's a brilliant marketing plan by the predatory marijuana industry to groom future users, it's **a way to advertise to kids under the radar.**

As a result, 1 out of 3 Pueblo high school seniors use marijuana now (35%), and they have a [27.6% chronic absenteeism rate from school](#).

There is [a marijuana head shop next door to an alternative high school](#) where kids can see shiny colorful bong, pipes, clothing and advertisements glorifying and normalizing marijuana. They even have a person waiving a sign saying come get your free pipe.

70% of marijuana shops in Colorado recommend marijuana to pregnant women. So, my mom and I hung [baby bibs on the marijuana shops in Pueblo that said, "Don't Hurt Our Future, Colorado Kids"](#). It was a [Campaign by the Marijuana Accountability Coalition](#)

[#1 cause of death ages 10 to 24 is suicide in Colorado. The main drug the victims are testing positive for is marijuana, ages 10 to 19.](#)

Keep in mind, the industry has to target youth because they need more and future users to maintain and increase profits.

Due to everything I presented and much more. I strongly advise you all to consider the harmful outcomes of HB-0032.

Commercialization of marijuana increases crime and violence. Just this past month on [January 21st, 2021 in Pueblo Colorado, 2 men were stealing marijuana from two state licensed legal businesses.](#) One business was a marijuana store, and one was a marijuana grow. Then on [January 7th, 2021 there was a theft at a state legal marijuana grow in Pueblo where shots were fired.](#)

Please consider the dangers of marijuana home cultivations because of the following facts:

1. increases violence/murder
2. Invites international criminal organizations into neighborhoods
3. Increases the black market

Source: <https://www.thenmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/RMHIDTA-Marijuana-Report-2020-2.pdf>

[Brad Fowler was growing and selling marijuana from his home when he was killed over a transaction.](#) He laid deceased on the street about 9 am, less than 100 feet from my parents' garage and 3 blocks away from my home.

Home marijuana cultivations result in human trafficking. This past August of 2020, [14 women were made to perform sex acts to fund illegal marijuana grows in Denver.](#)

Home marijuana cultivations invites international criminal organizations into our neighborhoods. The DEA busted a home with an illegal marijuana ran by Cuban internationals across the street from my friend's house in Pueblo West Colorado. It was the 2nd marijuana bust in this home. You can see me standing on this property in a documentary called [Chronic State.](#)

Home cultivations fuel the black market. Here are 3 different homes growing marijuana illegally that were recently busted in Pueblo county Colorado.

1. Narcotics detectives arrested [George Perez, 56, after finding an illegal marijuana grow worth an estimated \\$216,000 at a home in south Pueblo County.](#) The home was the site of a similar illegal grow bust in 2016.

2. A report made of alternations in a Pueblo West electrical system led detectives to an illegal marijuana grow of [76 plants and extensive grow equipment were seized from a home](#). This was the second time an illegal grow was found at this home on Camino Santiago.

3. Narcotics [detectives bust illegal marijuana grow operation in rural Avondale Colorado \(Pueblo County\)](#), 36 plants and package marijuana was found on the property.

Every day I try to find a way to forgive those that allowed this to happen. Drugs are winning the war on Drugs, and the war is now in our homes and neighborhoods.

I strongly urge you to regard HB-0032 as a route to drug promotional policies that will ruin your families and your neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Aubree Adams,

Former Colorado mom

Host of kids in recovery