



WHAT DOES THE BILL DO THAT ENDANGERS KIDS AND OTHERS?

Minnesota Family Council

This bill sends the message to kids that marijuana is a "medicine" and is not dangerous. This is not what we want to tell kids. Scientific literature shows that use of marijuana is a major risk factor in the development of addiction and drug use among our children.

1. Studies long ago established marijuana as a risky substance. The drug is highly addictive and now surpasses alcohol as the major reason that teens seek treatment for addiction. Compelling new research shows an increased public health threat. First, marijuana potency has more than doubled within the past 10 years and it is now 20 times the potency of the pot that kids got high on in the 1960's. Second, kids are using marijuana at younger ages, during crucial periods in their development, and thereby increasing risks that extend into adult life. And third, research from many nations now implicates marijuana's role in mental illness. Youth marijuana use elevates risks of depression, psychosis, even schizophrenia.
2. Marijuana is addictive. One study showed that of nearly 182,000 children in treatment, 48 percent were admitted for abuse or addiction to marijuana, while only 19.3 percent for alcohol and 2.9 percent for cocaine, 2.4 percent for methamphetamine and 2.3 percent for heroin. If kids perceive that marijuana is not dangerous it will lead to increased use and increased addiction.

References

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