Marijuana Issues
Presented to the
Secretaries Innovations Group

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Co-Founder, Project SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana)
www.learnaboutsam.org
www.kevinsabet.com
The most thoughtful, rigorous, and accessible discussion of marijuana to date. Sabet eschews silver bullets for smart, evidence-based solutions rooted in public health.” – Dr. Robert L. DuPont founding Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health

REEFER SANITY
SEVEN GREAT MYTHS ABOUT MARIJUANA

KEVIN A. SABET, PH.D.
FOREWORD BY PATRICK J. KENNEDY, FORMER CONGRESSMAN
The false dichotomy:

“Legalization OR Prohibition?”
Legalization = Big *Marijuana*
• Number of people who use 21+ days has increased by a factor of 7 since 1992
• Since 2007, the use of marijuana measured by days of use has increased 57%
• One arrest for every 5,800 days of use.
• That means someone who smokes marijuana 2x week for their whole life has a chance of being arrested once every 50 years.
• Potency has grown 10-20 fold
• Marijuana is now 2nd leading cause of impaired driving
• Marijuana use now surpasses tobacco for most young people
# ILLICIT DRUG EXPENDITURES

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>$30 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>$10 B</td>
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Source: Caulkins, RAND
The entire American population of daily marijuana users

“Heavy Marijuana Use in the United States: A Growing Policy Concern”
Jonathan Caulkins and Maria Cuellar
Average THC and CBD Levels in the US: 1960 - 2011

THC: Psychoactive Ingredient

CBD: NON-Psychoactive Ingredient

Mehmedic et al., 2010
98% Pure Marijuana: “Just a Plant”? 

“Green Crack” wax 

“Ear Wax” 

Butane Hash Oil (BHO) 

Hash Oil Capsules 

“Budder” 

“Shatter” 

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Quest Diagnostics Drug Test Index™

Workplace Pos MJ Tests: Increase from 2012-2013

http://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/physicians/health-trends/drug-testing
How Did We Get Here?
Legalization behind the smokescreen

“We will use [medical marijuana] as a red-herring to give marijuana a good name.” —Keith Stroup, head of NORML to the Emory Wheel, 1979

• Advocates have pushed their agenda through “medicine by popular vote” rather than the rigorous scientific testing system devised by the FDA.
Is Marijuana Medicine?

**NO:** SMOKED OR INHALED RAW MARIJUANA IS NOT MEDICINE

**YES:** THERE ARE MARIJUANA-BASED PILLS AVAILABLE AND OTHER MEDICATIONS COMING SOON

**MAYBE:** RESEARCH IS ONGOING
Compassionate care or increased access to marijuana?

- Less than 5% of card holders are cancer, HIV/AIDS, or glaucoma patients
- Average user: 32 WM, no illness
Bottom Line

We don’t smoke opium to get the effects of morphine.

So why would we smoke marijuana to get its potential medical effects?
Cannabis-Based Medicines

- Research on the efficacy of cannabinoids is not focused on raw/crude marijuana, but in the individual components that may have medical use.
- Sativex is in the process of being studied (phase III trials)
- Approved in Canada and across Europe
- Administered via an oral spray
Epidiolex™

- 98% pure CBD
- Some effectiveness for seizures
- Many versions on market which are not purified or standardized
Privateer Holdings: The first equity company dedicated to the marijuana industry.
Early Days of Big Tobacco

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‘Big marijuana’

“The use of marijuana ... has important implications for the tobacco industry in terms of an alternative product line. [We] have the land to grow it, the machines to roll it and package it, the distribution to market it. In fact, some firms have registered trademarks, which are taken directly from marijuana street jargon. These trade names are used currently on little-known legal products, but could be switched if and when marijuana is legalized. Estimates indicate that the market in legalized marijuana might be as high as $10 billion annually.”

From a report commissioned by cigarette manufacturer Brown and Williamson (now merged with R.J. Reynolds) in the 1970s.
Alcohol & Tobacco: Money Makers or Dollar Drainers?

Alcohol Costs

- $185 billion
- $14 billion

Revenues

Tobacco Costs

- $200 billion
- $25 billion

Revenues

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<th>Special</th>
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<tr>
<td>Private Reserve</td>
<td>$15</td>
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In a report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association last month, Andrew Monte, MD; Richard Zane, MD; and Kennon Heard, MD, pointed to edible marijuana as the culprit behind the most troubling cases arriving at the UCH and Children’s Hospital Colorado emergency departments, including severe burns and cycling vomiting syndrome.
US, CO, and WA Past-Year Marijuana Use (ages 12+)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>WA</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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Source: NSDUH, 2014
No US Mail Package Interceptions Containing CO Marijuana

Source: El Paso Intelligence Center National Seizure System
WA and CO Observe an Increase in the Share of Marijuana Driving Cases

Percentage of total DUI/DRE cases tested positive for THC* in WA

Source: Adapted from data provided by the WA State Patrol and WA State Toxicologist
Tax money?

Underground market?

Better schools?

Arrests down or up?
Colorado's marijuana tax collections are not as high as expected.

In February 2014, Gov. John Hickenlooper's office projected Colorado would take in $118 million in taxes on recreational marijuana in its first full year after legalization. With seven months of revenue data in, his office has cut that projection and believes it will collect just $69 million through the end of the fiscal year in June, a miss of 42 percent.

That figure is consequential in two ways. First, it's a wide miss. Second, compared with Colorado's all-funds budget of $27 billion, neither $69 million nor $118 million is a large number.
Cities Across *Colorado* are Banning the Recreational Sales of Marijuana

- Of the 31 cities in Colorado that voted in November to allow the recreational sales of marijuana, 26* voted to ban it.

Source: Colorado Municipalities League
Drug Policy Alliance

“We're at a tipping point where it's starting to feel like marijuana legalization is no longer a question of if -- but when. But what about the other drugs? My colleagues and I at the Drug Policy Alliance are committed to ensuring the decriminalization of all drug use becomes a political priority.”

Now he does not just mean to remove arrests for small amounts... he says: “Many of the reasons why marijuana legalization makes sense can be applied to drugs more generally” --which appears to mean that this is about legalization/full retail sales of all drugs.
-HuffPost
Bipartisan Co-Chairs (Kennedy + Frum)
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1. To inform public policy with the science of today’s marijuana.

2. To have honest conversations about reducing the unintended consequences of current marijuana policies, such as lifelong stigma due to arrest.

3. To prevent the establishment of Big Marijuana that would market marijuana to children — and to prevent Big Tobacco from taking over Big Marijuana. Those are the very likely results of legalization.

4. To promote research of marijuana’s medical properties and produce pharmacy-attainable medications.
Thank you!
Kevin@learnaboutsam.org
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