

Aubree Adams Testimony for HB 86
Ohio Senate General Government Committee
12/3/2023

Dear members of the Ohio Senate General Government Committee,

My name is Aubree Adams. I am the director of a non-profit community called [Every Brain Matters](#), which was developed by families who have loved ones severely damaged or killed by marijuana's effects.

I am one of those families. Colorado's Marijuana destroyed my family. And Ohio marijuana will destroy Ohio families, too.

My husband and son became addicted to marijuana and had episodes of cannabis psychosis. Psychosis is when a person experiences a break from reality, and some of the symptoms are paranoia, hallucinations, and delusions.

Marijuana's impacts on our family cost us everything. We had to sell our two homes to pay for treatment, and I currently live with friends for a financial reprieve because we have no equity left. I am still paying off this debt. My whole family has been traumatized, which will cost us for the rest of our lives.

When you allow marijuana home grows, you turned every home into a potential drug house and promote international criminal organizations to move into family neighborhoods, which increases crime and murder. Brad Fowler was killed just three blocks from my home and feet away from my parent's garage while he was selling his legal home-grown marijuana. Mr. Fowler lay deceased on the street at 9 a.m. on a Friday morning. We never had a murder in our neighborhood before marijuana legalization.

Home marijuana grows allows neighbors to prey on neighborhood kids to use their marijuana and sell marijuana to their friends. That's what happened to my son. And when my son became too psychotic from the marijuana my neighbors were giving him, they would send me messages to shoot up my home if I couldn't control him.

Have any of you tried to control a psychotic teenager, maintain a job, and protect your other kid? I have. Some days, I was successful. On other days, I locked myself and my younger son in my bedroom and called the police. Cannabis-induced psychosis wasn't discussed in any of the parenting books I read.

Ohio voters were deceived by well-funded marijuana lobbyists and campaigns that disguised the effects of this powerful drug just for a few people to get rich while Ohio families will pay the price. Ohio voters were fooled into thinking marijuana was less harmful than alcohol. But it's not.

One swallow of alcohol cannot induce psychotic behaviors like one swallow of a marijuana edible can or one hit off a potent THC vape pen can, or even two hits from a bong can.

That's what happened to Bryn Spejcher in Thousand Oaks, California. After just two bong hits of marijuana flower, Bryn experienced cannabis-induced psychosis and stabbed her date, Chad O'Meila, over a hundred times; then she stabbed her beloved dog, and when the police arrived, Bryn was stabbing herself. Chad did not survive this violent attack induced by what marijuana promoters call "just a natural plant."

Bryn was convicted of involuntary manslaughter this past Friday. Bryn's and Chad's story is just one of the main reasons why marijuana should not be promoted as a recreational drug.

But here we are, marijuana legalization has passed, even though the facts prove marijuana legalization in other states has failed, is a threat to public health and safety, and is a racist policy that targets disadvantaged communities and under-educated populations. The public does not know these facts because our side that was opposing Issue 2 was way underfunded, and some of the media suppressed our voices. For example, when I was asked to provide education here in Ohio one night by a mental health board, only one media reporter showed up to interview me and my colleague, Corinne LaMarca. We provided our stories and facts. Corinne showed the reporter a picture of her deceased daughter, whom a marijuana-impaired driver killed, but that reporter did not mention either one of our names or any of our messages. However, this reporter did feature Tom Heron, the leading marijuana lawyer for Issue 2, several times in his report, who did not even attend the event that night.

It is not a fair fight, but thankfully, the members of this committee are the gatekeepers that can lessen the impacts of this marijuana bomb before it's detonated on Ohio families.

Here are my urgent and very valuable amendments to protect Ohio families from industrialized marijuana:

- 1. Please Do Not allow marijuana home grows.** Remove it completely from the bill. Home marijuana grows, increases the black market, and brings crime and violence to neighborhoods. The state of Ohio will not be able to fund enough inspectors, code enforcers, and law enforcement to manage marijuana home grows without drastically increasing taxes. It will be a losing battle. Please DO NOT turn every Ohio home into a potential drug house and expand the black market.
- 2. Do Not allow marijuana edibles to be sold in your state.** Many children are being harmed by marijuana edibles that look like normal foods. Between [2016 and 2020, the number of emergency calls to poison control centers for kids under 12 who had eaten marijuana edibles climbed 1375%](#). Marijuana proponents try to deflect this, but these children have experienced a chemical assault to their brains, and there is no amount of THC that is safe for a child to consume.
- 3. Take all flavoring out of all marijuana vapes.** The marijuana industry is masking the foul taste of vape products to deceive consumers. If vapes did not contain sugary flavors, children and consumers would spit out these vapes out because they taste like chemicals drenched with weed. The committee may think it is best to ban all marijuana vapes. They are a weaponized drug delivery device by the marijuana addiction-for-profit industry that

provides a potent fast chemical assault to the brain and embeds the disease of addiction faster to increase profits.

4. **Please do not allow advertisements.** The industry targets youth and other vulnerable populations with false advertising to increase more and future users. It is called Addiction Economics, the same playbook the tobacco industry uses.
5. **Prepare Ohio families to prevent, manage, and recover from a loved one or a child who is addicted, psychotic, or who has toxic levels of marijuana** and is severely psychically sick, a condition called cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, by holding public hearings and town hall meetings featuring the families harmed by industrialized marijuana from other states.
6. Since taxpayers voted for this policy that promotes addiction and mental illness, they need to **fund a robust educational campaign** that reaches all corners of the state and reaches every family and every school. This campaign should run for a minimum of three years with consistent public service announcements before any pot shop opens so the public is well informed about the risks.
7. The state needs to **provide necessary resources for the families that are harmed.** Please open treatment programs specifically for cannabis use disorder, cannabis-induced psychosis, and cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome. And open **marijuana detox facilities** to keep these people safe because, many times, psychosis and suicidal behaviors come on stronger during the detox period. You will also need **a hotline** they can call. Please also **mandate that all health insurance companies must pay for treatment for cannabis use disorder.** Boston Medical Center just opened the first clinic in the country to treat teens with cannabis-induced psychosis. So, Ohio taxpayers will need to fund and open their clinic before any marijuana shops open.

Let's face it. We're not talking about a plant anymore. This is a new age of industrialized marijuana is not for the faint of heart. The marijuana industry has gotten away with predatory practices with minimal accountability. That's why I developed the Every Brain Matters community. Our primary mission is to support and advocate for families harmed by these industrialized marijuana products and advocate for accountability.

Every Brain Matters is a trusted educational and recovery resource.

I am available for questions, and I would like to be of service to you and Ohio families.

Thank you.

Aubree Adams, Director of Every Brain Matters, former Colorado mom and host mom for youth in recovery