

From: London, Sarah
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 4:57 PM
To: cdawson2@freepressmedia.com
Subject: Fwd: Records request

Cory, attached please find records in response to your public records act request below. We have redacted non-public contact information pursuant to 1 VSA 317(c)(7). If you feel any information has been withheld in error, you may appeal to the Governor's Chief of Staff, Darren Springer.

Thank you,
Sarah

Sent from my iPad

Gingras, Jessica

From: kalev <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 12:54 PM
To: rsears@leg.state.vt.us; Gingras, Jessica
Subject: Cannabis and public health
Attachments: Cannabis Testing for Public Safety - Best Practices for Vermont Analytical Laboratories v1.0.pdf

Dear Sen. Sears:

As a physician-scientist and professor at the medical school, I feel that it is important to express my concern that any *Cannabis* or *Cannabis*-infused products that come to market should be batched tested in a laboratory for potency and quality.

Over the past 3 years, I've worked with the VT medical marijuana non-profit dispensaries as a medical director to help set up chemical analysis of their products for potency measurements, and I was involved in S.14, introduced by you and Sen. White in the last session, to mandate labeling of potency of the active ingredients on all cannabis products. Now that there is discussion of possible legalization of Cannabis, I think it is especially important that we address the public risks of cannabis products coming to the retail market in Vermont, by mandating testing for potency and product safety in any such legislation.

Working with our partners at Bia Diagnostics, who are experts in food safety testing, we recently prepared the attached white paper with detailed recommendations on how testing should be conducted to ensure the public safety. We also enlisted help from a UVM business school faculty to model the cost to producers for such testing, which is included in this analysis. Finally, we also recommend that a portion of tax revenue from *Cannabis* sales are allocated to support the medical and technology research. I hope that you will review the summary of our recommendations and consider adding these to any future legislation in this domain.

I'm available to talk with you personally, or testify in committee, in support of mandatory testing of *Cannabis* products at your convenience. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to advance this public safety mission.

Sincerely,

Kalev

Kalev Freeman MD PhD
Emergency Physician, University of Vermont Medical Center
Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pharmacology, University of Vermont College of Medicine
<https://www.uvm.edu/medicine/freemanlab/>

Gingras, Jessica

From: Gingras, Jessica
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 11:45 AM
To: Pepper, James
Subject: FW: recommendations for Cannabis testing from PSI
Attachments: Cannabis Testing for Public Safety - Best Practices for Vermont Analytical Laboratories v1.0.pdf; ATT00001.htm

-jg

Best,

Jessica Gingras
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Governor's Office

The Pavilion – Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Office: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339
jessica.gingras@vermont.gov

From: Kalev Freeman [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:56 AM
To: Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: recommendations for Cannabis testing from PSI

Dear Jessica,

Hope you are doing well.

We prepared recommendations on Cannabis safety for public safety that Monique is starting to distribute this week. We also included some suggestions on how the State could develop leadership in Cannabis science and technology. We'll be talking about this on VPR morning edition next Mon or Tues.

I thought you might be interested, too so I've forwarded Monique's email to Bill Lofy and our recommendations (attached).

Best regards,

Kalev

Begin forwarded message:

From: Monique Mchenry <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 13, 2015 at 08:58:17 EST
To: Alan Newman <[REDACTED]>, Will Raap <[REDACTED]>, [billofy](#) <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Kalev Freeman <[REDACTED]>
Subject: recommendations for Cannabis testing from PSI

Hi Alan, Will, Bill,

Please find attached a paper from the Phyto Science Institute (PSI) that we hope will add value to the ongoing conversation surrounding public health and safety when consuming *Cannabis* products.

PSI was incorporated by UVM faculty, the founders of Vermont Patients Alliance, and the founders of Bia Diagnostics (a food safety testing company) to help bridge the gap that exists in science and education surrounding *Cannabis*. We do not have an opinion about taxing and regulating *Cannabis* in Vermont, but we do want to make sure any program in Vermont, medical or adult use, is regulated with the best interests of public health and safety prioritized. The paper I am sending today has been distributed to policy makers and covers our recommendations for establishing a *Cannabis* testing program in the state of Vermont.

Please contact me with any questions.

Best,
Monique

Gingras, Jessica

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To: Pepper, James
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See attached!

-jg

Best,

Jessica Gingras
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Governor's Office

The Pavilion – Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Office: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339
jessica.gingras@vermont.gov

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Gingras, Jessica

From: Gingras, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Kalev Freeman
Cc: Pepper, James
Subject: Re: recommendations for Cannabis testing from PSI

Hi Kalev,

Thanks for this!!! I'll forward this along so it gets in the right hands (copying James Pepper from my office).

Talk soon!

-jg

Jessica Gingras
Director, Appointments to Boards & Commissions Governor's Office

The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05609
Office: 802-828-3333
Fax: 802-828-3339
Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov

****please excuse any brevity or typographical errors - this message is being sent from my iPhone****

> On Nov 13, 2015, at 9:55 AM, Kalev Freeman <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Jessica,

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> Kalev

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> <[REDACTED]<mailto:[REDACTED]>>
> Date: November 13, 2015 at 08:58:17 EST
> To: Alan Newman
> <[REDACTED]<mailto:[REDACTED]>>, Will
> Raap <[REDACTED]<mailto:[REDACTED]>>,
> billlofy <mailto:billlofy[REDACTED]>
> Cc: Kalev Freeman
> <[REDACTED]<mailto:[REDACTED]>>
> Subject: recommendations for Cannabis testing from PSI

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Please contact me with any questions.

Best,
Monique

Gingras, Jessica

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Stuart Friedman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 11:26 PM
To: Lori Augustyniak
Cc: Amadon, Matthew; Bailey, Melissa; Chen, Harry; Cimaglio, Barbara; Cohen, Hal; Davidson, Scott; Farrell, Willa; Flynn, Keith; Gaiotti, Melanie; Gingras, Jessica; Gramuglia, John; Jones, Craig; Kalev Freeman; Kreig Pinkham; LaPlante, Marcia; Liese, Chauncey; Maria D'Heane; Mark Ames - Network Coordinator; Mark Depman; Mark Weikart; Mitch Baron; Peter Espenshade; Reed, Frank; Royer, Tina; Thomas, Cynthia; Trutor, Emily; Uerz, Robert
Subject: Re: Health Impact Assessment of Marijuana on VT

I have read the report and find it seriously flawed in many ways. I have prepared a critique of it which I have delivered to the Senate Judiciary Committee and will send to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee tomorrow. It is unscientific, it ignores research that does not suit its agenda, and strives to maintain the dominance of the law enforcement community in what I thought had been agreed was a health problem.

It endeavors to undermine all the good work done in many areas; for example, the notion of adverse childhood events is tossed out the window and the use of cannabis is posited as the only explanation for poor academic performance, poor social interactions, and low income. It seeks to obscure the role that these adverse events plays in a youngster's development and place the use of cannabis front and center. It also undermines the impact of inequality as a driver of social ills.

The included graphic on health indicators is keen to list adverse outcomes (even if there is no demonstrated causation) and ignores several benefits that legalization could reap. They would include:

- * assurance that the product was tested for additives and pesticides
- * the product can be purchased outside of an illegal network, a network where other drugs are also on offer
- * by implementing the three-pronged population-based approach, we can minimize the harmful effects of cannabis use, much as has happened with tobacco
- * youth are expert at detecting adult hypocrisy; keeping it unlawful while 16% of the population uses, helps strengthen youthful disrespect for the law and for adult authority
- * there is some early reports that cannabis can help opiate addicts maintain their abstinence; at the methadone clinic where I worked in 2014 positive urine tests for cannabis were not a cause for program expulsion

You state that SAM and SAM-VT are not opposed to all reform yet as long as it is illegal to purchase cannabis, criminal sanction, not to mention professional sanction, will rule. As treatment and prevention professionals we need to recognize that over the past 40 years of the War, the large majority of funding for drug reduction has gone to enforcement efforts, victimizing poor communities and communities of color, and devastating regions subject to the force of US eradication efforts. We are left with the crumbs and continued criminalization of an activity that 16% of all Vermonters do has little to do with what drives me as a substance abuse professional.

I look forward to any and all discussion,

Stuart Friedman LCSW, LADC

[REDACTED]
Montpelier, VT 05602

"The greatest purveyor of violence in the world : My own Government, I can not be Silent."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Tue, Jan 19, 2016 at 10:06 PM, Lori Augustyniak <[REDACTED]> wrote:
If you have not reviewed the report, I strongly encourage you to do
so...

The links are:

· HIA Website:

<http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/healthassessments>

· Direct link to the assessment document:

http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/healthassessments/documents/HIA_marijuana_regulation_in_vermont_201601.pdf

· Links to this HIA are also on the Healthvermont.gov home page and on the Marijuana Web page.

Lori Augustyniak
Coordinator
Prevention Works! VT
[REDACTED]

--- the forwarded message follows ---

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana)" <info@learnaboutsam.org>

To: [REDACTED]

Cc:

Date: Tue, 12 Jan 2016 16:58:17 -0500 (EST)

Subject: VERMONT RELEASES SCATHING REPORT ON MARIJUANA



SAM

Smart
Approaches to
Marijuana

preventing another big tobacco

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RELEASES
SCATHING REPORT ON MARIJUANA'S HEALTH
IMPACTS AS LEGISLATURE MULLS LEGALIZATION -
PREDICTS 12th GRADE MARIJUANA USE TO INCREASE
BY 10% IF VERMONT LEGALIZED MARIJUANA**

*The report also predicts a near 30% increase in
emergency room visits due to marijuana if the state
legalizes*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2015

Contact: Jeffrey Zinsmeister

jeff@learnaboutsam.org

+1 (415) 680-3993

[MONTPELIER, VT] - Today the Vermont Department of Health released a grim report on marijuana, *Health Impact Assessment: Marijuana Regulation in Vermont*, outlining health and safety issues related to the drug. The report's top-line findings are that marijuana negatively impacts most health and safety harms (p. 3) and that high school senior marijuana use would rise 6 points - or 10% - from 52% to 58% (p. 30). The report also predicted a staggering near-30% increase in emergency room admissions due to marijuana if the state legalized (p. 7), based on data from Colorado.

"Today's pot is not what Vermonters may have used in the 60s and 70s. The health impact is clear," remarked Kevin Sabet, President of SAM, Smart Approaches to Marijuana. "Governor Shumlin has been an outstanding leader on issues of substance abuse, with the glaring exception of marijuana. This report by his own department of health should be a wake-up call to any Vermont lawmaker mulling legalization," Sabet added. "This strategy will play into the hands of the increasingly well-financed marijuana lobby, which like Big Tobacco, seeks to put profits above public health."

In the report, several health and safety consequences are assessed - from psychosis to motor vehicle accidents to negative pregnancy effects - and almost all of them are found to be worsened by marijuana:

	HEALTH INDICATOR	IMPACT OF MARIJUANA USE
MENTAL HEALTH	Psychosis/Psychotic symptoms	WORSE
	Depression	WORSE
	Schizophrenia	WORSE
	Anxiety	WORSE
	Brain function	WORSE
	Psychosocial functioning	WORSE
INJURY	Motor vehicle accidents	WORSE
	Child poisoning	WORSE
	Skiing/snowboarding safety	NO STUDIES
RESPIRATORY	Short-term airflow	BETTER
	Long-term airflow	WORSE
	Cancer	UNCLEAR
	Chronic bronchitis	WORSE
PHYSICAL HEALTH	Cancer (non-lung)	UNCLEAR
	Stroke/heart attack	WORSE
REPROD HEALTH	Pregnancy	WORSE
YOUTH	Future dependence	WORSE
	Academic performance	WORSE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Dual use	WORSE
	Treatment	UNCLEAR
	Future use	UNCLEAR
	Dependence on marijuana	WORSE

"Wall Street entrepreneurs are chomping at the bit to get into Vermont and sell things like marijuana-infused gummy bears and sodas," remarked Debby Haskins, SAM Vermont's Montpelier-based Executive Director. "The newly released health report specifically warns against edibles, but if the corporate special interests get their way and marijuana is legalized, all bets are off."

SAM-VT and SAM are not against all marijuana reforms. Both organizations urge Vermont lawmakers to adopt health, prevention, and treatment-related strategies toward marijuana. SAM does not support imprisonment for marijuana or hampering young people with unnecessary criminal records. Legalization and industrialization would, however, only make existing policies worse.

For more information about marijuana use and its effects, see <http://www.learnaboutsam.org>.

###

About SAM

Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) is a nonpartisan, non-profit alliance of physicians, policy makers, prevention workers, treatment and recovery professionals, scientists, and other concerned citizens opposed to marijuana legalization who want health and scientific evidence to guide marijuana policies. SAM has affiliates in 31 states.

www.learnaboutsam.org

SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana, 1101 N. Fairfax St.,
Suite 201, Alexandria, VA 22314

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Sent by info@learnaboutsam.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today

Mishaan, Jessica

From: Pepper, James
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:25 AM
To: Mishaan, Jessica
Subject: FW: Nice speaking with you

From: Kalev Freeman [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:21 PM
To: Pepper, James <James.Pepper@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Nice speaking with you

Hi, are we on for 3? Getting ready to leave UVM. 802 [REDACTED]

On Mar 13, 2016, at 21:55, kalev < [REDACTED] > wrote:

James,

Ok I can do 3p tomorrow, how about meeting at the Cork, 1 Stowe Street, Waterbury 802-882-8227?

Thanks,

Kalev

On Fri, Mar 11, 2016 at 1:11 PM Pepper, James <James.Pepper@vermont.gov> wrote:

No problem - does 3pm work?

From: kalev [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:49 PM
To: Pepper, James <James.Pepper@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Nice speaking with you

James,

Thank you, too.

Later side of the afternoon would be best for Monday,

I'm looking forward to meeting in person.

Regards,

Kalev

On Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 9:46 AM Pepper, James <James.Pepper@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Kalev –

Thanks for speaking with me yesterday. I'd love to sit down in person. It looks like I could make it up to Waterbury this coming Monday in the afternoon. Does that work for you?

Thanks,

James