

What can you do?

Marijuana legalization is wrong for the Granite State's young people and overall quality of life. It will take a unified coalition to bring this message to our state's lawmakers. We encourage you to get involved. New Futures will provide training or support for you or your organization to oppose the legalization and commercialization of marijuana in any of these ways:

- Join the Coalition against the Legalization and Commercialization of Marijuana
- Join New Futures' political strategy table
- Hold a meeting with your legislators
- Write and submit a letter to the editor or opinion piece to your local newspaper
- Host an educational presentation on marijuana policy in your community
- Participate in a press conference or talk to the media about your opposition to legalization
- Sign on to a public list of those opposed to marijuana legalization
- Call your legislator to express your opposition to marijuana legalization
- Testify against bills to legalize marijuana in the state legislature
- Attend or hold a New Futures advocacy training

For more information: new-futures.org
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The Realities of Marijuana Legalization



How can we work together to keep New Hampshire
a great state to live, work, and raise a family?

Misconceptions about the effects of marijuana legalization in NH are rampant. Here are the facts.

1 Marijuana use during youth, when young brains are developing, can have long-term negative effects.¹

Here in New Hampshire, we know how important it is to support youth as they make the transition from adolescence to adulthood. We also know that substance use can be an obstacle to that successful transition. Our brains are built from the bottom up and are still developing through our early to mid-twenties. Using harmful substances such as marijuana during those critical years has the potential to negatively impact brain development and lead to negative outcomes.²

2 The earlier adolescents experiment with marijuana, the more at risk they are for increased substance use later in life.³

Given our understanding of brain development, it is not surprising that clinical research shows that marijuana use during adolescence can have long-term effects on stress-related behaviors and can lead to an increased chance of substance misuse later in life.⁴

3 Legalization opens the door to Big Marijuana entering our state and advertising harmful substances to young people.⁵

Legalization will enable and promote the development of a commercial marijuana industry in our state. This enterprise could include an active network of big corporations operating with a desire for profits and the incentive to increase consumption by marketing to create new users and maintain heavy users. Think Big Tobacco, Big Alcohol, and corporate enterprise.

4 Complex public health and safety concerns, surround legalization, including the safety of our roads and availability of highly potent edible products.⁶

New Hampshire's quality of life depends on communities, businesses, and government working together for the common good. Today, we face a significant addiction crisis that is putting the health and safety of both individuals and entire communities at risk. Increased public safety challenges, like impaired driving, edible products marketed to youth, and secondhand smoke, will only lead to a decrease in the Granite State's quality of life.

5 With other states legalizing & commercializing marijuana, NH is in a unique position to wait-and-see what successes and failures they have.

Nearby states are legalizing marijuana and making a harmful substance more accessible to our youth. New Hampshire already has exceptionally high rates of substance use. Young people in NH are among the least likely to view marijuana as harmful. Other states are still struggling to set up effective regulations around marijuana. New Hampshire is in a unique position to assess other states' challenges before risking harm to our youth and overall quality of life by legalizing marijuana.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2. American Psychological Association

3. National Institute on Drug Abuse

4. *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*

5. Recovery Research Institute

6. National Institute on Drug Abuse

Opening the door to Big Marijuana is wrong for New Hampshire's young people & communities.