

Capitol Press Conference | 1:30pm | 4/13/23

We are Randy and Heather Bacchus parents of a forever 21-year-old son lost to Cannabis Induced Psychosis and completed suicide in July of 2021.

At the time, our son Randy was living in a legal use state, Colorado. He purchased legal marijuana, and because it was legal, he was misled to believe it was safe. It is not safe, and he is just one of many young people whose lives have been lost or derailed that are examples of how high potency cannabis is detrimental to the developing brain, causing psychosis, depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

HF100 and SF 73 are not written with guardrails in place to keep Minnesotans safe. Keep in mind these bills are sponsored by an industry that stands to profit off addiction. Ironically the same legislators proposing to outlaw flavored tobacco, are in favor of recreational cannabis that includes gummies and flavored THC, potencies of up to 95% and no opportunity for communities to opt out. How hypocritical.

Cannabis is not safe. It is a psycho active drug. Every day new articles and studies are published that confirm the dangers of today's highly potent cannabis. Despite scientific evidence and lessons learned from other legal use states, foolishly Minnesota legislators think that commercialization of recreational cannabis will be better than other states, and it will not!

Many families will be impacted and hurt emotionally, socially, physically, and financially beyond repair. We know. Our son is dead as a result of his cannabis use. We feel unheard and discarded. Minnesota is not ready, and Minnesota is definitely not prepared!