

Blood on Their Hands: The National Security Dimensions of America's Emergence as a Narco-Nation and the Damage Being Done to our Citizens and the Environment

Presentation on Frederick County (Maryland) Health Priorities

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As a resident of Emmitsburg, Maryland, in Frederick County, I am pleased to share my perspective on Frederick County's health priorities over the next 3-year Local Health Improvement Process (LHIP) cycle. The launch by the Maryland Department of Health of the new Cannabis Public Health data dashboard demonstrates a very dangerous new trend and problem – the rise of “Big Marijuana,” much like Big Tobacco. This could have been avoided and needs to be dealt with on an emergency basis.

The worst drug crisis in U.S. history did not get the attention it deserved until President Trump declared opioids a public health emergency in October 2017. We all know that the communist Chinese have been facilitating shipping fentanyl into the U.S. from Mexico to kill our fellow citizens. Those Mexican drug cartels have now been designated as foreign terrorist organizations. But we have another drug problem.

Originally funded by the Hungarian-American oligarch George Soros, the billionaire hedge fund operator, marijuana is now on track to be a \$112 billion dollar business in America. It is causing death and destruction, as evidence links the mind-altering substance to psychosis and violence. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive component of marijuana, attacks the brain and can produce hallucinations.¹

Known as the godfather of drug legalization, George Soros understands that pot is the perfect commodity, guaranteed to keep customers coming back for more, in higher and higher doses.

The push to legalize the drug began under Barack Hussein Obama, who won the presidency despite a personal record of heavy marijuana use in the “Choom Gang.”

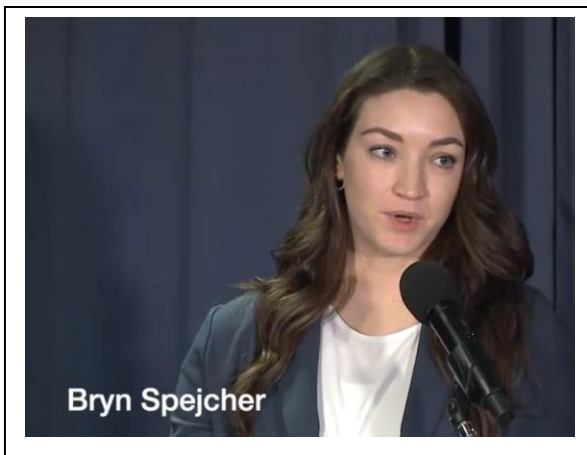
I suggest the media and our health care authorities investigate cases like that of Bryn Spejcher from California, who experienced what is called “cannabis-induced psychosis” and stabbed her boyfriend Chad O'Melia 108 times, killing him. She then stabbed her

dog and was trying to kill herself when the police arrived. She was arrested, prosecuted, and convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

At a May 20, 2024, news conference I attended and participated in, she declared:

“Expert professionals from the prosecution and defense at my trial, confirmed and agreed that the incident stemmed from a severe cannabis-induced psychosis, a condition exacerbated by the high potency of THC in the substance that was given to me without my knowledge. I want to emphasize that I had no prior history of mental health issues or violent behavior. Like many others, I was unaware of the potential risks associated with high-potency THC. I am no one special. This can happen to anyone. The normalization of potent strains of marijuana has perpetuated the misconception that cannabis is inherently harmless. However, this story serves as a stark reminder of the dangers lurking within.”

In California, legal dope was supposed to displace illegal dope. But illicit cannabis cultivation sites are proliferating, offering a cheaper product than the government-approved variety. The Siskiyou County (California) Board of Supervisors voted for a Declaration of Local Emergency that refers to illegal growers being responsible for “hundreds of pervasive fire hazards, insecticides, pesticides, rodenticides, fertilizers, trash, and unsanitary conditions which severely impact health, safety and quality of life for countless county residents...”²



I urge Frederick County to do the same.

Using marijuana is illegal in Russia and China. Yet the Russians and Chinese are actively involved in the legal and illegal marijuana industry in America. Consider the headlines from National Public Radio: “Marijuana farms are increasingly Chinese-run. Why?” and “Inside Chinese-funded and staffed marijuana farms.” The Oklahoma Attorney General’s Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) has been targeting Chinese crime syndicates and Mexican drug cartels operating in the state.³

The communists are trying to dumb down American youth and destroy our moral fiber to resist.

In his book, *Red Cocaine*, Joseph Douglass, Jr., had documented the role of the Communist powers in the drug problem based on debriefing the late General-Major Jan Sejna, the former senior Czech official. The 1956 House Committee on Un-American Activities report, “Soviet Total War: ‘Historic Mission’ of Violence and Deceit,” published

an article by Harry J. Anslinger entitled “Opium of the People’s Government,” providing evidence even then of major Chinese involvement in drug trafficking. Anslinger was head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics.

Former Soviet military officer Viktor Bout, the legendary “Merchant of Death,” was serving a 25-year sentence in U.S. federal prison on drug and terrorism charges before being sent back to Russia by President Joe Biden. Bout was lured out of Russia, where he was living openly, and arrested in a sting operation in Thailand by the DEA. Some of the weapons Bout was selling were for communist Colombian terrorists in the FARC to use against Americans. The communist FARC has been shipping drugs, especially cocaine, to the U.S. for decades.

As indicated by NPR, Chinese marijuana farms are “popping up” all over in America, using Chinese workers and in one major case Chinese nationals were convicted of drug conspiracy for illegally trafficking marijuana from an Oklahoma “grow operation.”⁴ Four people were shot and killed at that Chinese-sponsored marijuana growing operation in Oklahoma.⁵ Senator Susan Collins has questioned what federal law enforcement is doing to help shut down illegal Chinese marijuana growing operations in Maine.⁶

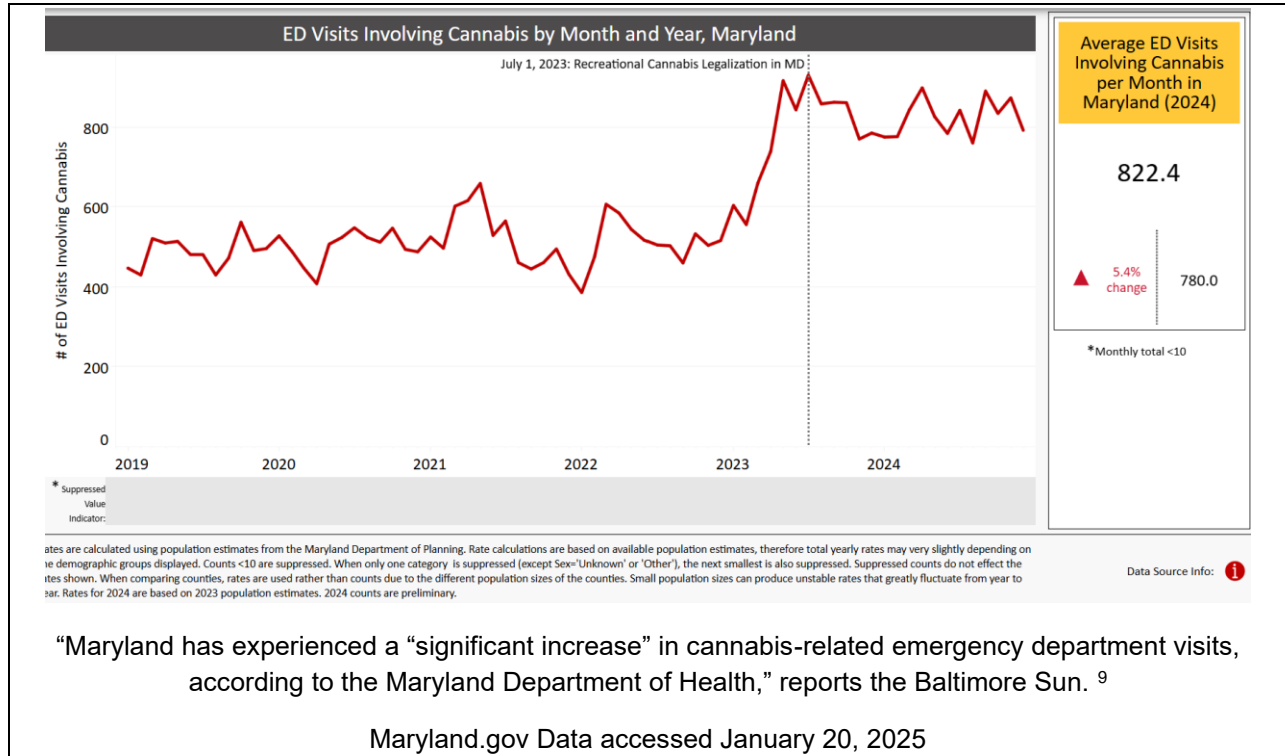
The results can be seen in Frederick County, Maryland. A Frederick News-Post report on the Phoenix Recovery Academy tells the story of Xavier, who started using marijuana and “grew to love it” and ended up “bruised from a fight with the police.” It says, “His path to and through addiction was complex, involving psychedelics, sleeping pills, inhalants and lots of marijuana.”

Unfortunately, Maryland has now legalized marijuana, and our governor, Wes Moore, served on the board of a marijuana company, Green Thumb Industries, even though the drug is still illegal under federal law.

Dr. Marty Makary, a Johns Hopkins professor and the new head of the FDA, says about “Marijuana Risks” that today's marijuana is much more potent than in the past and can have severe mental health implications for young people, including a higher risk of psychosis and mood disorders, and poses significant risks for developing brains.⁷

A condition called Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome is affecting some users, causing them to vomit uncontrollably for as long as 48 hours. “It’s confusing and paradoxical for patients because cannabis use is thought oftentimes to be a relief of vomiting and nausea,” said Dr. Matt Noble, a medical toxicologist with the Oregon Poison Center. Christine Martinez, who said she used cannabis heavily to treat chronic pain, was quoted by the local TV station as saying the vomiting “scared me to death” about the alleged medical benefits of dope. “Never again,” she said. “I’m through with it.”

The claim we see in the media that marijuana somehow “helps” people cope with pain is not based in science. The FDA has not approved marijuana for the treatment of any disease or condition. Similarly, the claim that marijuana can address “anxiety or pain relief” is false.⁸



“The main adverse effects of using cannabis during adolescence fall under three broad categories: dependence, underachievement and mental health problems (DUM),” notes one study.¹⁰ A study published in JAMA Psychiatry provides “evidence that young adults at risk of developing psychosis show reduced brain connectivity, a deficit that cannabis use appears to exacerbate.”¹¹

President Trump has indicated marijuana could be a root cause of much of the gun violence in the United States because of genetically engineered or high-potency marijuana causing psychotic breaks in people. A review of cases of marijuana and violence has confirmed this.¹²

If the federal government wants to stop gun violence, one place to start is enforcing federal laws against marijuana.

For one of the most sensational examples of a notorious pothead, consider Aaron Hernandez, the former NFL star who became a convicted killer and then killed himself in prison. The subject of a new Netflix series, “Killer Inside: The Mind of Aaron

Hernandez,” he was a chronic marijuana user throughout college and his NFL career who experienced brain damage from the drug. The case proves a direct link between marijuana, mental illness, and violence.

The Islamic Jihadist Boston bombers were marijuana users and traffickers.

Yet Maryland state agencies, including the Office of Social Equity, participated in the May 2024 “Maryland Cannabis Convention.” Even the University of Maryland had a booth.

My own mother died from lung cancer caused by smoking. Today, if you buy tobacco, you are warned about its health effects. But there are no health warnings about the psychoactive ingredient THC in the products sold by marijuana businesses. Now, the marijuana industry wants the drug to be changed from schedule 1 to 3, making it seem even less dangerous. It could mean billions of dollars in more sales for marijuana businesses, at the expense of young brains.

THC, the main psychoactive component of marijuana, alters the minds of many suffering from the problems of isolation and depression, sparking more suicides, even violence. The FDA also “strongly advises” against the use of CBD, THC, and marijuana in any form during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.

As noted by attorney David G. Evans, the motive behind the marijuana movement is money, greed, and tax revenue for government. But Evans, Senior Counsel for the group known as the Cannabis Industry Victims Educating Litigators (CIVEL), warns of potential legal problems for marijuana growers and distributors.

Health Care					
	41.000	Abbott Laboratories	\$ 110.40	\$ 4,526.40	0.18%
	12.000	Danaher Corp.	\$ 254.35	\$ 3,052.20	0.12%
	12.000	Eli Lilly & Co.	\$ 383.35	\$ 4,600.20	0.18%
	11.000	Intuitive Surgical, Inc.	\$ 300.46	\$ 3,305.06	0.13%
	9.000	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.	\$ 574.30	\$ 5,168.70	0.20%
	12.000	UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	\$ 488.94	\$ 5,867.28	0.23%
	315.000	Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Sponsored ADR	\$ 16.86	\$ 5,310.90	0.21%
	170,730.000	Green Thumb Industries, Inc.	\$ 6.86	\$ 1,171,207.80	46.13%

Wes Moore owns almost \$1.2 million worth of stock in Green Thumb Industries, a marijuana business. This constitutes about 46% of his assets outlined in the trust.

He warns “Today's marijuana products can be high in potency and can reach 99% THC. These products can be very destructive and cause addiction, mental illness, violence, crime, DUIs and many health and social problems. Young people are particularly vulnerable. We must protect them.”

Hence, his group has produced six litigator guidelines:

- Product liability for the production and sale of dangerous and/or contaminated and poorly processed marijuana for medical or recreational use.
- Medical malpractice for the promotion and use of marijuana as a medicine without FDA approval.
- Environmental lawsuits to recover for environmental damage caused by marijuana growing.
- The federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act prohibits a person (also a corporation) from investing in, acquiring, or participating in the affairs of an enterprise that engages in racketeering activity. RICO applies to "medical" marijuana and recreational marijuana as both are illegal under federal law. Damage claims for economic injuries can be filed.
- Server liability for marijuana stores that sell medical or recreational marijuana to customers who then kill or injure others in car crashes or other accidents.
- Lawsuits under the Drug Dealer Liability Act - several states have passed laws that make drug dealers civilly liable to those injured by a driver under the influence of drugs or families who lose a child to illegal drugs and others injured by illegal drugs.

Evans says, "We will arm the legal profession to recognize cases, prepare them and then litigate as was done in the cases against big tobacco and is now being done against the opiate companies."

On a legal basis alone, on the federal level, marijuana growing and trafficking is illegal under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). RICO cases can be brought in state or federal court. In one such case, in the town of Oxford, New Jersey, the town committee conspired with an industrial marijuana grow operation to place a grow operation with five large greenhouses and an 8-foot barbed wire fence around it right next to a family's house. The family had lived there for 20 years. It was a quiet rural street. After a motion where the court held that operation of such a facility may be a RICO violation, the grower pulled out.

I covered the opening of the Curaleaf store in Maryland on July 1, 2023, when Maryland state Delegates Karen Simpson and Ken Kerr, as well as Debbie Streeton, manager of member services for the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, helped stage a ribbon cutting when "adult use" sales began. Curaleaf was given a special award by the Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Chamber.¹³

In a May 24, 2024 letter to Attorney General Anthony G. Brown, I informed him about the well-established fact that the marijuana business Curaleaf was financed with Russian money from a billionaire associate of Russian President Vladimir Putin,¹⁴ described by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project as a member of

Putin's inner circle since the late 1990s.¹⁵ I provided him a report from the Maryland Cannabis Administration confirming the company is not in compliance with state law.



In an email response to my public records request, the Maryland Cannabis Administration confirmed a letter of “non-Compliance” has been issued to Curleaf, which has a “presence” in 17 states, including Maryland, and “owns and operates 145 dispensaries and 18 cultivation sites.”

It had previously been reported cannabis regulators in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont were looking into whether Curaleaf violated state law when the company and its two largest shareholders accepted hundreds of millions of dollars in loans from companies owned by Abramovich.

As noted, in Russia and China, marijuana remains illegal. Indeed, WNBA star Brittney Griner was sentenced to nine years in a Russian prison for bringing marijuana into the country. She was released in exchange for Viktor Bout.

In Illinois, where dope has been legal since 2020, former McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally had required local marijuana businesses to post specific signs in prominent locations that state:

- WARNING: Cannabis use may contribute to mental health problems, including psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia, increased thoughts of suicide and suicide attempts, anxiety, and depression. Risk is greatest for frequent users.
- WARNING: The FDA has not approved cannabis for the treatment of any disease or medical condition.

Local and state officials in Maryland must act.

President Trump’s replacement for U.S. Attorney Erek Barron could enforce current federal marijuana laws, including the use of RICO. That would save the minds of young people and reduce the number of drug addicts with mental problems running rampant in the streets of major cities and contributing to violence, murder, and the rising crime rate.

The sponsors of this event, the Frederick County Health Department, Frederick Health, and the Coalition for a Healthier Frederick County, must consider the legal liabilities, not to mention the mental health crisis being exacerbated by the legalization of a mind-altering substance still illegal on the federal level.

Thank you.

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/neuroscience/tetrahydrocannabinol>

² <https://kobi5.com/news/local-news/siskiyou-county-declares-state-of-emergency-over-illegal-marijuana-119246/>

³ <https://oklahoma.gov/oag/news/newsroom/2023/november/attorney-general-s-organized-crime-task-force-seizes-more-than-7.html>

⁴ Federal Jury Convicts Chinese Nationals of Drug Conspiracy for Illegally Trafficking Black-Market Marijuana from Oklahoma Grow Operation. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdok/pr/federal-jury-convicts-chinese-nationals-drug-conspiracy-illegally-trafficking-black>

⁵ See “Gangsters, Money and Murder: How Chinese Organized Crime Is Dominating America’s Illegal Marijuana Market,” ProPublica, <https://www.propublica.org/article/chinese-organized-crime-us-marijuana-market>

⁶ <https://www.collins.senate.gov/newsroom/senator-collins-questions-us-attorney-general-on-efforts-to-shut-down-illegal-chinese-marijuana-operations-in-maine>

⁷ <https://dexa.ai/impacttheory/d/bc6d81dc-7345-11ef-a3b8-2f5f9f01cef1>

⁸ <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-cannabis-research-and-drug-approval-process>

⁹ https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/11/18/cannabis-health-dashboard-safe-use/?lctg=1413B53244C8042F643F957039&utm_email=1413B53244C8042F643F957039&active=no&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=https%3a%2f%2fwww.baltimoresun.com%2f2024%2f11%2f18%2fcannabis-health-dashboard-safe-use%2f&utm_campaign=trib-baltimore_sun-breaking_news-nl&utm_content=alert

¹⁰ <https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/article/effects-cannabis-youth-mental-health-drugs-addiction/162694/>

¹¹ <https://www.psypost.org/cannabis-use-worsens-reduced-brain-connectivity-in-young-adults-at-risk-for-psychosis-study-finds/>

¹² <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7084484/>

¹³ <https://web.frederickchamber.org/atlas/directory/category/doctors-and-health-services/Curaleaf-5401>

¹⁴ <https://www.forensicnews.co/roman-abramovich-secretly-funded-worlds-largest-marijuana-company/>

¹⁵ <https://www.occrp.org/en/project/paradise-papers/roman-abramovich>