

HB 481 is an irresponsible bill.

New Hampshire representatives have introduced an irresponsible bill which fully legalizes and commercializes marijuana without providing the necessary public health protections to keep our youth and communities healthy.

Marijuana commercialization is wrong for New Hampshire's young people and communities. Science shows that marijuana use during youth, when young brains are developing, can have long-term negative health effects. Allowing Big Marijuana into New Hampshire will allow this major industry to manufacture, sell, and market an addictive substance to our kids, setting them up for long-term health problems, like impaired cognitive functioning, an elevated risk of developing mental illness, and an increased chance of developing a substance use disorder.

Concerns about HB 481

- This bill permits full commercialization of marijuana, allowing a major industry to manufacture, sell, and market an addictive product to young people, as Big Tobacco did to previous generations. There is no restriction on social media advertising in the bill either, which we know is an effective way to target young people.
- Highly potent marijuana and marijuana products, like edibles, waxes, and shatters, will be part of a legal market if New Hampshire commercializes. This is nothing like marijuana smoked in the 1970s, which had an average of 3-5% THC. HB 481 puts no limits on the types or potency of products which will be sold.
- HB 481 also does not take into account the realistic upfront costs of commercialization by including funding for educational campaigns on public health and safety concerns.
- HB 481 explicitly states that those who have advocated against marijuana legalization in the past may not sit on the proposed marijuana regulatory commission. This excludes prevention and public health from their necessary seat at the table to advocate for the best interests of the health of all Granite Staters.