MEDIA ADVISORY

Kennedy's Project SAM To Present Link Between Marijuana and Mental Illness

To Congress

Kennedy's "Smart Approaches to Marijuana" will  also present 40,000 signatures in support of marijuana prevention to the Hill during special side event featuring the head of the largest treatment center in Mexico

WHAT:  Former Congressman Patrick Kennedy; Denver-based Child Addiction Psychiatrist Christian Thurstone; Former Obama Drug Advisor Kevin A. Sabet, and CIJ Treatment Center leader Carmen Fernandez will present evidence about the link between marijuana and mental illness. Dr. Thurstone will speak specifically about the effects of marijuana policy in Colorado; Ms. Fernandez will present 40,000 signatures her group has collected.

WHY: The dialogue around marijuana has been falsely dichotomized as "incarceration versus legalization" with virtually no discussion about the health harms, especially to mental health, linked to chronic marijuana use. Project SAM focuses on the health effects of marijuana use for the development of smart policies that both reduce incarceration and addiction.

WHEN: Friday, April 26, 2013, 12:00pm-1:00pm.

 WHERE: U.S. Congress - Rayburn Building, 2203