A catalyst for change
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Your advocate and resource

As the only non-profit with a paid staff focused exclusively on stopping the marijuana industry in the country, we make sure your voice is heard.

America is at a crossroads. A massive marijuana industry intent on getting rich is spreading misinformation about today’s highly potent, THC-rich marijuana, while millions of young people are being exposed to a level of commercialization not seen since the days of Joe Camel.

Here at SAM we think people deserve a better option, one focused on prevention, awareness, and treatment.

This year marked Colorado as the top state in the nation for first-time marijuana users, while it and other states saw more use of marijuana among older teens and young adults.

A new Tobacco-style industry continues to sell THC-laced drinks, candies, and other items aimed at kids. Relentless in their pursuit of profits, they are funding political campaigns that benefit their aim: the full commercialization of highly potent marijuana.

But they are running into a snag in their plans: SAM. In 2017, SAM and our partners defeated legalization in every state where it was introduced, and rolled back the implementation of legalization in Maine, where that destructive policy won by 0.5% of the vote.

Our success has been the result of generous donations from those who have personal experience with addiction combined with broad-based coalitions that work both behind-the-scenes and in the news in almost every state.

For SAM, 2017 was indeed a watershed year. We opened a division of Federal Affairs to house our tireless work on Capitol Hill, where SAM Action is the sole lobbyist on the ground. We met with staff and leaders of both parties to find common ground and stop Big Marijuana.
A new industry has emerged, selling THC-laced drinks, candies, and other items aimed at kids. They must be stopped.

18-25 Year-Old Monthly Marijuana Use Legal vs. Non-Legal State Averages

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, December 2017

Legal vs. Non-Legal State Averages

Legal States + DC: 48% increase
Non-Legal States: 18% increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005-2006</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Legalized</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legalized</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>29.2</td>
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We also expanded our state operations. Knowing the challenges we will face in 2018 - a well-financed ballot initiative in Michigan, and a major push for legalization by some legislative and executive leaders in New Jersey, for example - SAM and SAM Action have been getting ready for the work ahead by bringing on board several well-known state leaders to guide our non-federal work. Their experience, knowledge, and passion will lead us in 2018.

Finally, we received support for a new field operation to help give voice to the victims of marijuana's harms. The first initiative of this project is "High Means DUI," a campaign to highlight stoned driving fatalities and the families torn apart by intoxicated driving. It's about time we raise awareness about this critical, if often overlooked, issue.

We advocate for marijuana policies grounded in science, prevention, intervention, awareness, treatment, public safety and public health. We fight for the rights of the victims of Big Marijuana and, whether in government or on the industry’s payroll, we keep those accountable who intend to put profits over public health and safety.

We continue to demand marijuana laws grounded in 21st century science, not outdated ideology or industry-funded pseudoscience. As always, our esteemed scientific advisory board - comprised of top researchers from Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and elsewhere - informs all of our technical work.

And we're counting on your continued assistance to make our work possible. We thank you for your support and look toward a bright future in 2018 together!

Kevin A. Sabet, PhD
President & CEO
SAM & SAM Action

Jon Talcott
Chairman
SAM
No State Legalized Marijuana in 2017

Working with broad coalitions, we helped to ensure Big Marijuana got nowhere in 2017.

We had some nail-biters in 2017. And some slam-dunks. Because of generous donations from people whose lives have been directly affected by addiction, we were able to fund advocacy in half a dozen states, and support our more than three dozen affiliates with valuable technical assistance. Our wins in 2017 included:

- Getting the Governor of Vermont to veto legalization; and the Legislature to stop commercialization
- Stopping commercialization in Maine
- Replacing the legalization proposal in Rhode Island with a Study Commission that had SAM as a named member
- Stopping legalization from any chance in several other states, including Delaware and Maryland

An Emerson College poll funded by SAM Action found support for legalization fell 30% when voters were given the choice of removing criminal penalties for marijuana possession.
SAM President Kevin Sabet, with NIDA Director Nora Volkow, SAM Vice-Chair Stuart Gitlow, and SAM Honorary Board Member Patrick Kennedy, at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, discussing the harms of marijuana.

On the front lines with today’s decision makers. Because of SAM, lenient marijuana policies have been stopped in more than a dozen states.

“We were gaining momentum. But now that’s flipped and we’re more on the defensive,” said Rep. Titus, who is seen as one of the biggest cannabis supporters in Congress. (Las Vegas Review-Journal, 2017)
Above: Patrick Kennedy squares off against Bill Maher on HBO’s "Real Time"
Below right: Kevin Sabet debates Libertarian Presidential Candidate Gary Johnson at Yale
Below Left: SAM’s Will Jones on Fox Business’ Stossel show

“SAM is poised to launch a serious counter-offensive. It’s not a new War on Pot, but it might be the most potent campaign since Nancy Reagan made marijuana the centerpiece of her ‘Just say no’ tour three decades ago.”

-NBC News

“Marshalling the counterrevolution...[SAM is] filling a vacuum in the drug debate. [This] one well-organized group....may be all that’s needed to...ensure that...politicians join the fight against [legalization].”

- Salon Magazine
Educating the Public, Press, and Politicians on Smart Marijuana Policy

SAM garnered hundreds of thousands of press hits this year, and even got editors to change inaccurate stories that contribute to widespread misinformation about marijuana.

SAM was featured in major publications in 2017, including op-eds by Patrick Kennedy in Sunday’s New Jersey Star-Ledger and the Washington Post.

Among other victories:

- SAM forced Vice News to change a story inaccurately reporting marijuana use had not gone up according to surveys
- SAM received coverage in the Washington Post for a SAM Action-sponsored poll finding most people do not favor legalization when given the option of decriminalizing low-level use
- SAM Action launched billboards and bus ads in several states

FACT:
After Colorado Legalized Marijuana, Pot-Related Arrests of Black and Latino Youth Increased.

States with legal pot are seeing more fatal drugged driving crashes, increased youth drug use, and a continued black market for cannabis. Call Senator Booker and tell him to stop promoting the interests of the for-profit marijuana industry and start putting public health and real social justice first: (202) 224-3224

LearnAboutSam.org

Source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Marijuana Legalization in Colorado: Early Findings March 2016

A bus ad featured in New Jersey
Publications With Impact

Our work, reviewed by our science advisory board, is cited regularly by major government agencies and experts.
Above: Patrick Kennedy at a press conference in New Hampshire, where legalization was defeated

Right: SAM's meeting with Pope Francis, where the Pontiff expressed his support for SAM's goals of prevention and stopping legalization. SAM's President Kevin Sabet was one of approximately 40 individuals representing 20 organizations chosen globally to present in front of the Pontifical Academy of the Sciences

SAM President Kevin Sabet delivering a TEDx PrincetonU talk on the false dichotomy between legalization and criminalization

SAM Action-funded billboards in Texas, thanking Rep. Pete Sessions for his support
There are thousands of activists and educators working to stop Big Marijuana and educate on the science of marijuana and its impact on society as a result of SAM’s efforts.
SAM's New Initiatives for 2017

Beyond our regular education and advocacy work, SAM and SAM Action continue to start new initiatives with local leaders pushing back against Big Marijuana.

Just this year alone, SAM Action helped launch the Marijuana Accountability Coalition (MAC) in Denver, Colorado, to hold the marijuana industry accountable there. It is led by Young People in Recovery President Justin Luke Riley.

SAM also launched the High Means DUI initiative to combat stoned driving. Car crashes with marijuana involved drivers have increased dramatically in legalized states, and High Means DUI uses a combination of emotional personal narrative, statistics, and policy work to combat this deadly trend.

(Below right: The Facebook Live launch of MAC in Denver, in front of the Ritz-Carlton, where the pot industry was celebrating 5 years of legalization. Below left: The launch of High Means DUI)
Left: High Means DUI campaign logo

Below: MAC billboard seen on the busy streets of Denver titled "Are you better off than you were five years ago?"
**SAM Honorary Board**

Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy  
General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.)  
David Frum

**SAM Board of Directors**

Jon Talcott, Chair  
Stuart Gitlow, Vice-Chair  
Mike Bloom  
Ben Cort  
David George  
Steve Millette

**SAM Science Advisory Board**

Hoover Adger, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Adolescent Medicine, Johns Hopkins University

Judge Arthur Burnett, National Executive Director, National African American Drug Policy Coalition

Eden Evins, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

Stuart Gitlow, MD, MPH, MBA, Former President, American Society of Addiction Medicine

Sion Harris, PhD, Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research, Children’s Hospital Boston

Marilyn Huestis, PhD, Former Head of Toxicology, NIDA & Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland

Yifrah Kaminer, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Pediatrics, University of Connecticut

Sharon Levy, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

Kimber Richter, MD, PhD, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, University of Kansas

Paula Riggs, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado at Denver

Christian Thurstone, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado

Krishna Upadhya, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Kathryn Wells, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Colorado at Denver

Aaron Weiner, PhD, Director of Addiction Services, Linden Oaks Behavioral Healthcenter in Illinois
## Statement of Financial Position, January- November, 2017

### Assets

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Foundation Support</td>
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<td>Individual Support</td>
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### Liabilities and Net Assets

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<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Programmatic Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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## SAM Action financials

### Statement of Financial Position January-November 2017

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<th>Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
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<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Lobbying Expenses</td>
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<td>Investments/Dividends</td>
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SAM and SAM Action

www.learnaboutsam.org
www.samaction.net

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