#PotVapingCrisis Talking Points and Facts

Talking Points:

- 70% of the cases of illness and at least 2 of the 12 deaths have been connected to THC oils.
- At a time when we are investigating the causes of this rash of deaths and illnesses connected to marijuana oils and vapes, all marijuana legalization efforts and THC vaping oil sales should pause.
- This is not a black-market issue, it is the result of allowing Big Marijuana - an addiction-for-profit drug industry backed by Big Tobacco and companies like Juul - to mass produce these oils and vapes, along with candies, gummies, and other dangerously potent forms of the drug.
- Big Tobacco, E-Cigarette and Vaping Companies and the Marijuana industry share many of the same investors. The industries are connected by billions in investments.

Facts:

- 12 people have died from severe respiratory complications associated with vaping. At least 800 cases have been reported across the United States.i

- Two of the deaths have been connected to marijuana products, one of which was associated with marijuana oil purchased at a legal dispensary in Oregon.ii No other states have released information about the kinds of vapes that were linked to the deaths.

- Early reports link marijuana vapes to 70 percent of the lung illnesses being reported in the wake of the vaping epidemic.iii

- Though the marijuana industry blames illicit vaporizers exclusively for using Vitamin E acetate, one source working within the industry, Andrew Jones of Mr. Extractor, has said that 60 to 70 percent of vapes contain Vitamin E acetate.iv

- New York state has issued subpoenas to several vape companies as the investigation mounts.v

- Medical marijuana users in Maryland have reported symptoms consistent with the lung illnesses resulting from vaping.vi
• A recent study showed adolescents who vaped were 3.5 times as likely to smoke marijuana.vii

• Since Monitoring the Future (MTF) first began recording vaping trends among young people in 2017, the survey has demonstrated significant increases among key demographics. In 2017, 1.6 percent of 8th graders, 4.3 percent of 10th graders, and 4.9 percent of 12th graders reported past-month marijuana vaping use. In 2018 the numbers increased to 2.6 percent, 7 percent, and 7.5 percent respectively.viii

• The MTF notes that “the doubling from 5.2% in 2017 to 10.9% in 2018 of 30-day prevalence of vaping marijuana among college students is among the largest one-year proportion increases for any substance” in 40 years.ix

• In Arizona, a survey of 50,000 10th and 12th graders found that one quarter (25%) of teens were using has used highly potent marijuana concentrates at least once.x

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