“Medical” marijuana or marketing plan?
- For the marijuana industry, medical legalization is the surest way to achieve full legalization.
- The former director of NORML, Richard Cowan said, “...once there’s medical access, if we continue to do what we have to do... then we’ll get full legalization.”
- Many licensed marijuana companies in medical states are also licensed to sell recreational marijuana in states where it is fully “legal,” giving these companies a hand in both markets.

Science raises questions about the efficacy of marijuana as medicine.
- The commercial medical marijuana market races ahead of science available on its efficacy in treating a number of ailments.
- Pain is one of the most commonly reported qualifying conditions in “legal” states, in spite of evidence suggesting marijuana fails to mitigate pain (CDPHE, 2019; Tampa Bay Times, 2019; Politico, 2020).
- 83% of “medical” marijuana dispensaries in Colorado recommended THC products to pregnant women. Consuming marijuana during pregnancy is dangerous and can inhibit fetal development.

“Medical” pot brings many of the same consequences as recreational legalization.
- Living near a medical marijuana dispensary is associated with an increase in use and more positive association, as well as greater experimentation, among youth and young adults.
- Poison control center calls for youth exposures increased 140% after MML in Massachusetts.
- While industry proponents suggest that legalization will reverse the opioid epidemic, some studies have found a correlation between MML and an increase in opioid-related deaths.

Businesses face risks from MML.
- Many states—such as Nevada—now prohibit employers from testing employees or requiring job applicants to be tested for marijuana. Many employers are also prohibited from firing medical marijuana users.
- In New Mexico, courts decided that companies were required to reimburse employees for medical marijuana use (Vialpando v. Ben’s Automotive, 2014; Maez v. Riley Industrial, 2015; Lewis v. American General Media, 2015).