

**Public Comments: Dan Bartkowiak, Director of Communications, PA Family Institute  
Lt. Governor Fetterman's Listening Tour | February 11, 2019 – Harrisburg, PA**

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Lt. Gov Fetterman, you have said, “we should go [full-on](#) Colorado” in fully legalizing marijuana here in Pennsylvania. Our elected officials should absolutely not go full-on Colorado. We should not have another Big Tobacco industry that markets and brings harm to more children and families here in Pennsylvania. Here's why – let's look at Colorado.

- ER Visits for Kids Rise Significantly After Pot Legalized in Colorado ([NBC News](#))
  - “They found 639 teenagers who went to one hospital system in Colorado in 2015 had either cannabis in their urine or told a doctor they'd been using cannabis. That's up from 146 in 2005, before the use of marijuana was legalized in Colorado.”
  - “In 2016, Wang found that the average rate of marijuana-related visits to the children's hospital doubled after legalization.
- Calls to poison control have risen 210% between the four-year averages before and after legalization. (Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center).
- The crime rate in Colorado has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation since legalization. (Denver Post)
- Colorado Bureau of Investigation reporting an 8.3% increase in property crimes and 18.6% increase in violent crimes. ([Denver Post](#))
- “It is easier to find a bag of weed than a [Starbucks] Grande low-fat latte” in Colorado. ([My 420 Tours](#))
  - There are more retail marijuana stores than Starbucks and McDonalds combined.
    - [Denver only](#): 364 marijuana dispensaries vs 80 Starbucks and 31 McDonalds.
  - There are five times as many recreational dispensaries than Walmart locations across Colorado.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized in Colorado:
  - Traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled in 2017. (75 - 2014, 125 - 2016, 139 – 2017) ([Highway Loss Data Institute](#))
  - Percentage of all traffic deaths that were marijuana related increased from 11.43% in 2013 to 21.3% in 2017. ([Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area](#))
  - A recent study by the Colorado Division of criminal Justice found of the 4,000 drivers tested for marijuana in 2016, 73 percent were found to have the drug in their system. ([Denver Post](#))
  - “69 percent of cannabis consumers have driven under the influence of marijuana at least once in the past year – with 27 percent admitting they drive high almost daily....About 10 percent of all users think it makes them a better driver.” ([Colorado Department of Transportation](#))
- Crimes and offenses in public schools – In the 2015-2016 school year, #1 offense was marijuana – nearly double the next offense. (Colorado Department of Public Safety, 2017)
- Colorado holds the top ranking for first-time marijuana use among youth in the country. (Department of Health and Human Services)
- 46% of children who were hospitalized in Colorado with parents participating in a smoking cessation study, these children had detectable marijuana in their body ([American Academy of Pediatrics](#), December 2018)

Pennsylvania elected officials should stop any effort to fully legalize marijuana. We should not have another Big Tobacco industry marketing and bringing harm to more children and families here in Pennsylvania.