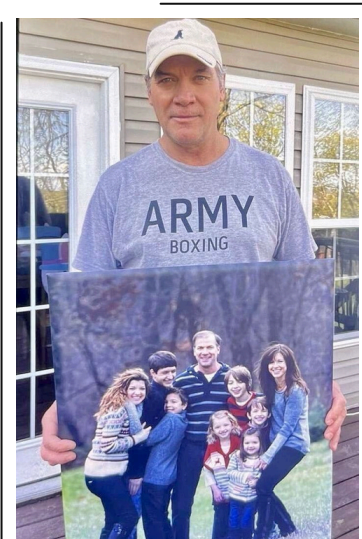


# THE HUMAN TOLL OF TODAY'S MARIJUANA

*"The legalization of recreational marijuana will **take a human toll** in Pennsylvania."*

PA State Senator Scott Martin



## Dave and Sarah Hudock

Bridgeville, Pennsylvania

"Between two of our seven children, we have experienced over 23 hospitalizations and residential treatment programs as a result of marijuana use. In 2019, our charming, bright, easy-going 18-year-old had his first psychotic break. Two months later, his older brother had his first psychotic break while away at college. One son jumped off a bridge while trying to run away from an imaginary serial killer."

"What both of our boys had in common was their heavy cannabis use, particularly in the form of dab pens, waxes, and gummies, which all contained up to 99% THC. They have lost years of their young lives, and our entire family has been traumatized. Additionally, our family's finances have been greatly strained due to our attempts to keep our two boys alive. Today, both of our boys are doing better but remain in sober living communities."

“  
**OUR ENTIRE  
FAMILY HAS BEEN  
TRAUMATIZED.**  
”

"It is difficult for teenagers and young adults to believe these products can and will cause so much damage when society normalizes "weed" and fails to warn our youth of the potential dangers."



## Jennifer Kelchner

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

"My son was bright and athletic. He was in AP classes, a varsity football captain. A leader. And now? He is a shell. He is a burden to himself, to our family, and to the state. And all of this started with THC."

"He first tried marijuana at age 14. Today, he's unrecognizable—paranoid, manic, hospitalized twelve times, bankrupt, delusional."

"He now lives with me and barely functions. His two younger brothers and I are in therapy now to help cope with him. Are you making more money off the sale of high-potency THC than what you're spending to support people like my son after their minds are broken by it?"

“  
**FROM BRIGHT  
TO BARELY  
FUNCTIONING.**  
”

# THE HUMAN TOLL OF TODAY'S MARIJUANA

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## Stephen and Monica DeLossi

Newton, Pennsylvania

"Marijuana is destroying my family. My only child is destroyed to the core. He first tried weed in 9th grade, and since then, this young, smart, hockey player has fallen deep into addiction, with the corresponding lack of will and empathy. This addiction has led to the destruction of property, no school, continued loss of jobs, events of violence, jail time, and unresolved court cases."

"We are looking forward to finding a way out of this nightmare, hoping to save our child and our family, but more than that, to help and make sure this never happens to other families."

“  
**MARIJUANA  
IS DESTROYING  
MY FAMILY.**  
”



## PA State Representative Brian Smith

R - House District 66

"Marijuana affected my life very much. I have a son who was smoking marijuana [as a teenager]. My wife and I did everything we could to get him to stop."

When he turned 18, his son started using more than marijuana. On a Senior class trip, he bought a Xani bar and took it back to where their group was staying.

"He ate the bar, he went back to his apartment, went to sleep, and he never woke up."

"There are many outcomes from the usage of marijuana that are not good. If people would just look at the information and understand that. [Knowing my story] you have to understand the reason why I have the stance that I have on marijuana. Please understand the negatives of the drug. It's not worth the negatives."

“  
**IT'S NOT WORTH  
THE NEGATIVES.”**  
”

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## Jeff and Patti Weaver

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

We adored our son, David. Early in his life, he had the drive and intellect to accomplish anything he set his mind to. His marijuana addiction robbed him of his life and his future.

He started smoking pot in eighth grade. We tried everything to keep him from weed and the friends who were bad influences. We enlisted the help of psychiatrists, psychologists, and pastors. We sent David away to rehab, moved him to private boarding school, sent him back to another rehab program, then another new high school

David wanted to be free from his addiction and spent a year at ministry school then a top Christian College. but during COVID, David relapsed.

David drowned while on a camping trip; his body was found in the Juniata River with no drugs in his system. He was 27 years old, not suicidal, but showing signs of psychosis, a known effect of prolonged pot use during adolescence with the potential of leading to schizophrenia.

Had our son never smoked marijuana, I am sure he'd be alive today. The youth of Pennsylvania need the Commonwealth's protection, not its exploitation.

“  
IT ROBBED HIM OF  
HIS FUTURE.  
”



## Lilly Roth

Quakertown, Pennsylvania

“Some say a little marijuana will not hurt anyone. You know, a little escape can't hurt anyone, right? Except when it does hurt and harm someone else.”

Her parents, both born in Puerto Rico, were killed by a DUI-related car accident. The driver had marijuana in his car, and his blood samples tested positive.

“The next time I hear ‘no big deal’ about using marijuana, I will dispute that notion wholeheartedly. Anything that's going to hinder one's alertness and attentiveness is going to have an impact on society.”

“  
MARIJUANA USE  
CAN HARM  
SOMEONE ELSE.  
”