

Ref: Legalizing Medicine- The fight for medical marijuana in Florida.

As a parent and contributor to the article “Legalizing Medicine- The fight for medical marijuana in Florida” it is extremely disconcerting Parenting Magazine deliberately chose to deceive parents, disregard medical warnings & ignore scientific evidence.

Anyone who reads your article can't help but feel compassionate and hopeful that something would help her. However encouraging people to go against medical advice is unconscionable and quite frankly unethical. The American Cancer Society advises: “Better and more effective treatments are needed to overcome the side effects of cancer and its treatment.” The American Epilepsy Society warns parents, “Families coming to Colorado are receiving unregulated, highly variable artisanal preparations of cannabis oil prescribed, in most cases, by physicians with no training in pediatrics, neurology or epilepsy.”

Your article neglected to inform readers the doctors and parents had the option of considering a prescription form of a cannabis-based medicine to help with her nausea and increase her appetite. Prescription medicine also has the added medical and safety benefits of standards of care required by the FDA.

There are several faces of victims of marijuana use.

- Prescription Drug Abuse: Your article stated 44 per day die of drug overdoses but not mentioned in those statistics are the number of people who started their addition with marijuana use and/or died with it in their system.
 - Since the legalization of marijuana in Colorado there has been an increase in prescription drug overdoses and alcohol consumption.
 - Since the legalization of marijuana in Colorado youth usage is 56% higher than the national average and continues to increase.
- Colorado Families:
 - In Colorado hospitalization for marijuana related issues has 46% increase in 3 years (11,439 people in 2014 alone).
 - Marijuana-related traffic deaths were approximately 20 percent of all traffic deaths in 2014 compared to half that (10 percent) just five years ago. (With only 47% of fatal accidents being tested for drug impairment these numbers may low)

Based on research and scientific evidence crude marijuana causes far more damage than any potential benefit. Anecdotal 'data' is emotional and subjective and should not be the basis for promoting a two page article on marijuana as a medicine.

For the record I am not skeptical about marijuana I can distinguish fact from fiction. The research, negative consequences and statistical data all confirm marijuana is not a safe drug but detrimental to the individuals who use it, their families and our communities. The risks and consequences far outweigh any potential benefits.

Sincerely,

Teresa Miller

Article: <http://magazine.tbparenting.com/publication/index.php?i=0&m=1129&l=1&p=6&pre=&ver=swf>

Medical Association Response to Marijuana:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5ameKn-SJEXQ2NEZXpnYTA2VW8/view?usp=sharing>

Overdose resource: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>