



Patrick Boccio <pboccio@greenbrooktwp.org>

2018 was a banner year, can you help us repeat it?

1 message

Kevin Sabet <reply@learnaboutsam.org>

Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 2:35 PM

Reply-To: reply@learnaboutsam.org

To: pboccio@greenbrooktwp.org



Dear friend,

What a year it has been. 2018 marked a time when public health and safety advocates from around the country came together to push back against Big Marijuana's attempts to further their addiction-for-profit scheme. We stopped them in eight states. We stopped them in Congress. We stopped them in the Executive branch.

I'll touch more upon these victories in a bit, but first, I'd like to point out a sobering fact:

From the day SAM was founded, we have been saying that **Big Marijuana will evolve into another public health crisis like Big Tobacco**. Folks laughed it away, assured that the marijuana industry would be "responsible" and that we'd "finally get regulation right." Big Tobacco and Big Pharma would never get involved, they said.

Well, they aren't laughing now. In fact, a [Forbes article](#) published just this month admitted a painful truth, highlighting Altria's enormous investment into Cronos (a giant marijuana cultivator in Canada):

"Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)'s legalization opponent Kevin Sabet may be right: like it or not Big Tobacco is invading cannabis."

We wish we weren't right. But we were. And it gets worse.

It was just recently announced that Altria is now also [moving to own](#) a minor stake in JUUL, the main culprit behind today's epidemic of youth vaping.

But we won't ever back down. In 2019, we will continue to expose the marriage of Big Marijuana and Big Tobacco. We will stop Big Pot's entry into the US financial system, and we will continue with our hard-fought legislative work.

We'll build off our 2018 victories when we took on Big Pot [all across the country](#) last year, both at the ballot box and in various state legislatures. For those who insist pot legalization had a good year, we remind them that our partners defeated legalization by the second largest margin in history in North Dakota and we struck down legalization bills in Illinois, Vermont, Delaware, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. On the federal level, this year marked a time when SAM was able to flood the offices of key lawmakers with phone calls and other grassroots action from supporters like you -- and in the end, 34 pro-pot amendments [were blocked](#) in the House Rules Committee alone.

Speaking of amendments, Colorado Senator and pot industry darling Cory Gardner [attempted](#) to use the First Step act - a comprehensive, bi-partisan criminal justice reform bill - as a vehicle to federally legalize marijuana by attaching his STATES Act bill as an amendment. SAM [sent a letter](#) condemning the move to Senate Leadership and thankfully, Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley shot down Gardner's attempt at "back-door legalization" and stripped the amendment from the bill.

While this year was certainly one for the books, the new year always brings with it new challenges. The fight in New Jersey is far from over and the fight in new states is just beginning.

We plan to take on Big Marijuana where ever it rears its head, but we are already putting the infrastructure in place to defend health and safety in Connecticut, New York, and Illinois, places where governors have pledged to push for legalization in the next year.

As we set down to plan our operations, you play an important and critical role. None of the aforementioned successes would have been possible without your generous support and we will not be able to add to our wins next year without your continued support.

That said, please consider helping us budget for the upcoming year with a donation by clicking here. If you can, please consider giving [\\$1,000, \\$500, \\$250, or even \\$100 to help defeat Big Marijuana in 2019](#).

We have proven we know how to win, now it is up to you to [help us do it again](#).

Thank you for your support,



Dr. Kevin Sabet
President and Founder
Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)

About SAM

[Smart Approaches to Marijuana](#) (SAM) is a nonpartisan, non-profit alliance of physicians, policy makers, prevention workers, treatment and recovery professionals, scientists, and other concerned citizens opposed to marijuana legalization who want health and scientific evidence to guide marijuana policies. SAM has affiliates in more than 30 states.

Evidence shows that marijuana - which has skyrocketed in average potency over the past decades - [is addictive and harmful to the human brain](#), especially when used by adolescents. In states that have already legalized the drug, there has been an increase in [drugged driving crashes](#), [youth marijuana use](#), and [costs that far outweigh pot revenues](#). These states have seen [a black market that continues to thrive](#), sustained marijuana arrest rates, and [tobacco company investment in marijuana](#).

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