



NEWS

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Leading Drug Prevention Experts Call For Governmental Action Against Marijuana-Flavored Candy/Other Hemp Products *Products Dangerous For Children*

For Immediate Release

Chicago IL - 9/12/05 – Leading drug prevention advocates from around the country are calling on state and federal governments to fulfill their responsibilities to protect children from hemp and the illegal drug culture it promotes and glamorizes. Specifically, the drug prevention advocates request that the Federal Trade Commission exercise its authority to investigate Hydro Blunts, LLC, the manufacturer of Kronic Kandy, and the Chronic Candy Corporation, the manufacturer of Chronic Candy, for potential deceptive acts and false advertisements. The two companies distribute, market, and sell lollipops advertised to contain hemp oil and/or cannabis flower oil.

In a separate action, Jeanette McDougal, a Florida grandmother and retired drug prevention educator, is imploring the Department of Health & Human Services to exercise its duty under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) and proceed against companies distributing and selling products containing hemp oil and/or cannabis flower oil. The FDCA requires pre-market approval of food components that are not generally recognized as safe. The safety of hemp oil and cannabis flower oil has not been established, and according to sources within the Food and Drug Administration, neither oil has been approved as a food additive.

(more)

“Producers of marijuana-flavored candy and other products that utilize hemp are deceiving reasonable consumers regarding the nutritional content, safety, and legality of products containing hemp, hemp oils, or other marijuana derivatives,” according to Calvina Fay, Executive Director, Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. Chronic Candy and Kronik Kandy’s deceptive practices and misrepresentations are material because they involve consumers’ health and safety, in addition to the legality of consumers’ actions.

“Make no mistake, it is critical that our government draw a line in the sand and eliminate the possession and use of hemp and hemp products in the United States,” according to Peter Bensinger, former administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. “Legal and financial recognition of hemp would mean legal marijuana, whether our government likes it or not. It would become an enforcement agent’s nightmare,” Bensinger added.

“Marijuana-flavored candies, and other products that utilize hemp, hemp oil and hemp seeds, are the result of a sub-culture that glamorizes and promotes drug use to the most vulnerable, our children,” according to Dr. Andrea Barthwell, the former Deputy Director for Demand Reduction from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. “If left unchecked, the drug culture will continue its cynical attempt to deceive our children and legitimize marijuana,” Barthwell added.

Today’s marijuana is much more powerful and much more addictive than it was a generation ago. In fact, of the 7.1 million Americans suffering from illegal drug dependence or abuse, 60% are dependent on or are abusing marijuana.

Facts about Marijuana:

- Of the 7.1 million Americans suffering from illegal drug dependence or abuse, 60% are dependent on or are abusing marijuana. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2003)
- More young people are now in treatment for marijuana dependency than for alcohol or for all other illegal drugs combined. (SAMHSA Treatment Episode Data Set 2000)
- Young people under age 26 represent 55% of the overall dependent or abusing population. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2003)
- Of all teenagers in drug treatment, about 62% had a primary marijuana diagnosis in 2000. (SAMHSA Treatment Episode Data Set 2000)

More Information:

- Family Research Council: Hemp is Marijuana: <http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=IS00L1&V=PRINT>
- Link to EVI paper on the legalities of hemp: <http://www.educatingvoices.org/mediaresources905.asp>
- Link to letter to FTC: <http://www.educatingvoices.org/mediaresources905.asp>
- Link to letter to HHS: <http://www.educatingvoices.org/mediaresources905.asp>
- FDA: Food Ingredients & Colors: <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/foodic.html>
- Legal Information Institute: Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode21/usc_sup_01_21_10_9.html
- FTC: Advertising Substantiation: www.ftc.gov/bcp/guides/ad3subst.htm
- FTC: Deception: www.ftc.gov/bcp/policystmt/ad-decept.htm

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