

Direct quoted assertions from Ms. Stiver

“When you look at the information that I gave you, you will see just simply by having more access, just simply by having volume of marijuana in a community their poison control went up 153% for children ages 0 to 5. Because you are going to get edibles.”

Source: Audio Transcription from 7/28/16 Fairbanks North Star Borough Meeting (18:00 mark at following audio link)
http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/assembly/AssemblyMeetingDocuments/2016_07_28REGT1.mp3

“Colorado opened it up like the old west. And we are fixing to do the very same thing, even more. More so than Colorado.”

Source: Audio Transcription from 7/28/16 Fairbanks North Star Borough Meeting (18:00 mark at following audio link)
http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/assembly/AssemblyMeetingDocuments/2016_07_28REGT1.mp3

Factual Response from Real Sources and Industry Leaders

We can't source her number but the only data we find which shows an increase of that size is in France where Cannabis is neither legal or regulated. In Colorado this table from Poison Control shows the increase and we will let you do the math to convert to a rate of increase but it certainly isn't 153%.

Table 30. Human marijuana exposures reported to Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, by age group and marijuana type, 2015-2017

Age group	Total reports	Percent of each marijuana type		
		Smokeable Marijuana	Edible Marijuana	Other Marijuana Cannabidiol
All ages				
2015	230	54.8%	36.5%	8.3%
2016	227	52.0%	37.4%	8.8%
2017	222	38.7%	45.0%	14.0%
0 to 8 years old				
2015	49	40.8%	51.0%	8.2%
2016	50	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%
2017	64	23.4%	65.6%	10.9%

Colorado made some mistakes, and Alaska learned from them. Our regulations are incredibly thorough and detailed. For example our serving size limit is half of Colorado's and the smallest in the nation. As made apparent by her statements Ms. Stiver hasn't had time to read the robust regulations, as there are many pages and it would certainly take many hours to fully digest and understand.



“Couple of things that I think have been missed along the way, medical marijuana is basically more the cannabinoids (sic) in the marijuana it’s not the THC. THC is the one that gets you high so when people say well this is what you know peyote Indians use all the time and years ago that’s untrue. Because what they’ve done is they’ve made hybrids of the plant, they’ve made the amount of THC in that plant greater, and that’s your recreational amount, recreational marijuana.”

Source: Mid Toker Podcast
<https://soundcloud.com/mid-toker/three-prohibition-birds-in-my-borough-ep64-far-north-tokers>

“The definition of commercialization is exploiting for profit, to exploit for profit, such as Christmas, birthdays, greeting cards. So what we’re going to do is were going to open up this whole can of worms we think we’ve got it regulated, we think we’ve got, we don’t.”

Source: Mid Toker Podcast
<https://soundcloud.com/mid-toker/three-prohibition-birds-in-my-borough-ep64-far-north-tokers>

“It is a drug, there is no way around it. It’s not a glass of wine, it’s not a shot of Jack Daniels, it’s way more powerful than that.”

Source: Mid Toker Podcast
<https://soundcloud.com/mid-toker/three-prohibition-birds-in-my-borough-ep64-far-north-tokers>

Genus Cannabis is one plant with many hybrid variations. Contained within cannabis there are over 12 recognized cannabinoids, 10 of which we test for in the State of Alaska along with 20 recognized Terpenes. There is evidence out there to suggest that all Terpenes and Cannabinoids have varying therapeutic or medicinal effects, both singularly and in combination, especially when interacting with the human endocannabinoid system. The primary difference between medical cannabis and recreational cannabis is how it is regulated and sold/distributed. The products are often the same with the same levels of THC, it is simply the regulatory and tax structures that are different. In Alaska there were never any pharmacies or dispensaries legally licensed to distribute cannabis, so a licensed retail shop is the only place that a permitted medical marijuana cardholder can purchase cannabis legally.

The actual definition of Commercialization is: *the process of introducing a new product or production method into commerce — making it available on the market.*

An unregulated black market perhaps is guilty of exploiting for profit, but the licensed industry in Alaska is filled with good actors who are reputable employers and taxpayers. These truly Alaskan entrepreneurs, in their free time, are philanthropic and caring members of their communities.

These business people exemplify the Administration’s message that “Alaska is Open For Business”

Correct, it is a drug, so is Alcohol.

It is a drug that when used responsibly has documented lower public health and safety risks than alcohol.

Cannabis unlike alcohol has many known therapeutic benefits and a very low risk of addiction.

The societal costs related to cannabis use is microscopic in comparison to alcohol.

So to say that it is more powerful is concerning and perhaps Ms. Stiver should be an advocate for alcohol use.



"This plant in nature has .2 to .5 THC in it, today marijuana is a GMO, is a genetically modified plant, it has 17 percent, from .2 , .5 percent, to 17 percent THC value. Purely recreational. The other thing I heard was about the medical value, people were concerned about you know having it for medical purposes, well, the marijuana industry wasn't stupid so what they did is they paired an opportunity medical marijuana with recreational marijuana which has no medicinal value at all."

Source: Mid Toker Podcast
<https://soundcloud.com/mid-toker/three-prohibition-birds-in-my-borough-ep64-far-north-tokers>

"The other thing with medical marijuana, today a pharmacy can apply for a license and dispense medical marijuana right now, they didn't need this law, they could've done it, cause medical marijuana had been legal in the state for a long time."

Source: Mid Toker Podcast
<https://soundcloud.com/mid-toker/three-prohibition-birds-in-my-borough-ep64-far-north-tokers>

"A lot of people were just unsure about what all had been legalized under this law. I think one of the biggest things they're surprised by are the edibles that can be out there. They are very much likened to national brand foods. Very hard to distinguish for young children...the difference."

Source: APRN Media from 8/26/16
<https://media.aprn.org/2016/ann-20160826-03.mp3>

This statement above all else shows her lack of understanding of the industry she is hoping to regulate. Plants containing .2-.5% THC is what you would knowingly call industrial hemp.

Cannabis grown for medicinal or recreational use is ancient and not genetically modified, however it can be fine-tuned to have more or less of certain cannabinoids depending on the product and consumer you are appealing to. Many in the industry are currently hybridizing plants to decrease the THC content as to highlight the other therapeutic cannabinoids, such as CBD which has been shown to help with chronic inflammation and Crohn's Disease. These medical strains are sold in Alaska's recreational market.

We believe this statement alone illustrates her lack of understanding of current and past law in Alaska. It had never been possible for a pharmacy or any other regulated provider group to offer cannabis to consumers.

First, there are robust and stringent regulations that guide what edibles can look like and who they can appeal to. The board approves each edible allowed onto the market. Second, under Ms. Stivers logic, consumer products such as Tide Pods and Personal care products such as soaps which can be shaped like food should also be prohibited. We believe it remains a parent or guardians' responsibility to keep their children from ingesting dangerous items.

* Understanding that accidents happen, it is worth knowing that no human has ever died from accidental cannabis consumption where no other factors /substances was present.



“So your gonna have these possibly smoking areas and then out first responders have to go in there. And of course they’re in a safety sensitive job, they cannot consume marijuana, if they test positive for THC well then they have to justify kinda where it came from, oh yeah I answered that call last week down at the marijuana pot shop on Cushman, one of the three I think that are on Cushman, soon to be four, so then he may or her be put on administrative leave until they can identify yeah did he or did she consume on her personal time. So first responders will be exposed to the THC in the smoke and the marijuana, and that’s not acceptable in their job and their position.”

Source: 10/26/17 Fairbanks North Star Borough Meeting (57:00 mark at following audio link) http://fnsb.us/assembly/AssemblyMeetingDocuments/2017_10_26REG17.mp3

“You have people who are again, are intoxicated, whether its alcohol or marijuana their intoxicated, and as you know there are three strands of marijuana, hemp, sativa and Endicott (sic). Sativa has been known to cause violence in people and their behavior.”

Source: 10/26/17 Fairbanks North Star Borough Meeting (57:00 mark at following audio link) http://fnsb.us/assembly/AssemblyMeetingDocuments/2017_10_26REG17.mp3

We would ask how many first responders or law enforcement officers have been disciplined for responding to a house party or similar situation where cannabis was being consumed? Have they declined to take those calls until the air clears, how is this a new issue considering cannabis has been consumed indoors in Alaska since before statehood?

Again, this misguided statement is one that Vivian has used to strike fear in her audience. It is not based in fact and honestly doesn’t make much sense.
First: “strands” is not a term used in our industry, but we will try to clarify.

Cannabis is a family of plants with two primary classifications — Indica and Sativa. While marijuana can be considered a member of either the Indica or Sativa families, Hemp is a member of the Cannabis Sativa family.

We have found no real science or evidence to suggest that any Cannabis is linked to violence, much less a specific type. Cannabis is broadly known to create the opposite effect, in fact the Nixon administration said marijuana was going to turn us all into pacifists.

This is just more baseless fear mongering.

An observation from the industry: considering her misinformed rambling, we are troubled to think that her concerns could ever be translated into coherent and effective regulation. It seems she has an education gap that shouldn’t be reconciled on state time. The Marijuana Control Board is not the place to get educated but rather to share fact-based knowledge and expertise.

