

WHAT IF EATING BANANAS LOWERED YOUR IQ?

If you were told early on in your child's development that eating bananas would lead to at least an IQ drop of 8 points, you'd probably decide never to feed bananas to your kids. In fact, this island may even be moved to ban bananas from all suppliers. While this fact about bananas is certainly incorrect, what if you knew that the following facts WERE TRUE:

- **78% of the 2.4 million people who began using marijuana last year were age 12-20.**
- **Heavy marijuana use in teens is linked to lower grades, exam scores, lower income, and unemployment.**
- **Regular heavy marijuana use by teens CAN LEAD to an IQ drop of up to 8 points.**

In November of 2016, Massachusetts voters passed Question 4, officially legalizing recreational marijuana for individuals 21 years of age or older. The law went into effect on December 15, 2016, however, the commercial market is not yet up and running. Our community has participated in recent forums regarding the use of medical cannabis, engaged physicians registered with the Medical Marijuana Program in the Department of Public Health, and featured newspaper articles on opportunities associated with the business of recreational use.

Despite the potential benefits and legality of marijuana, a balanced discussion about marijuana, review of all the facts associated with its recreational use, and the harmful effects on the young and developing (especially teenage) brain is overdue. We want our community to be aware that development of the brain is significantly altered when marijuana smoking becomes part of a young person's daily routine. Our community needs an open, informative forum to promote education, dispel myths, and review the mounting impact of escalating marijuana use on our youth.

Our group is made of members who care about this community, our children, and our families. Our intent is not to demonize legal marijuana use, but rather to raise awareness of how it impacts the teenage developing brain. We hope you will all embrace our message as an opportunity to become more educated about the effects of marijuana abuse among the younger members of our community. We are planning educational seminars this fall, open to the community, and we hope you will join us. We have gathered the following signatures from our community who support these efforts:

- Robert Ogden, Duke's County Sherriff
- Robert Laskowski , Secretary of the Duke's County Health Council
- Lena Prisco, Chair of the DCHC
- Tristan Israel, Tisbury Selectman
- Melinda Loberg, Tisbury Selectwoman
- Christine Todd. TITLE?
- David Holway, County Commissioner
- David Perzanowski, Owner, Vineyard Scripts
- Eileen Wuerthele, TITLE?
- Charles Silberstein, MD
- Pieter Pil, M.D., Martha's Vineyard Hospital Chief of the Medical Staff
- Cynthia Mitchell, West Tisbury Selectwoman, CEO of Island Health, Inc.
- Theresa Manning, MV Youth Task Force
- Jamie Vanderhoop, MV Youth Task Force
- Martina Thornton, Dukes County Manager
- Marina Lent, Chilmark Board of Health
- Cynthia Doyle, Dukes County Health Council
- Charles Hodge, Dukes County Health Council
- Sara Dingley, Principal, MVRHS
- Elliott Bennett, Vice Principal, MVRHS
- Julie Fay, MV Community Services
- Katrina Delgadillo, MVH Communications Director
- Susan Mercier, MV Community Services
- Sonya Stevens, M.D.
- David Caron, Pharmacist, MVH
- Geoff Rose, Patient Centric MV