

— TEXAS EAGLE FORUM —

June 2026

Dear Texas Eagles,

I am writing to you on Memorial Day, a day when we gather together as a nation, with our family and friends, to remember and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives defending our nation and our freedoms. Their sacrifice reminds us that liberty is bought with a price and must be defended by every generation. We are deeply grateful for those who laid down their lives for our country and for the families who continue to carry the heavy weight of that sacrifice.

Meanwhile, our work continues in Texas. While the primary runoff elections are now settled, many of us are preparing to head to the Republican State Convention. We are so thankful for the Eagles who carve out the time, money, and energy—all of which are needed—to help update our strong conservative platform and lay out the priorities of the people.

If you are attending the convention, please join us for our **Lunch and Learn on Friday, June 12, from 12:00–1:00 p.m.** We have partnered with Patriot Mobile to bring you an outstanding panel of experts to discuss “Don’t Sharia My Texas.” We are praying for a room packed with patriots! The event is free to all delegates, alternates, registered guests, and accompanying family members. We also look forward to seeing you in the exhibit hall at booth #715, so please stop by and say hello.

Our recent two-part *Torch* series on Islam has become a valuable tool for many of you to help friends and family understand why we must use our laws to push back against this evil, theocratic, totalitarian ideology. We must help people understand that in the 1,400 years Islam has existed, its adherents have never abandoned their vision of global domination. Islam seeks to advance its ideology through both stealth and overt actions, including using our own laws to its advantage.

On another front impacting families, in this month’s issue of *The Torch*, guest contributor Dr. Matthew Poling, family physician, veteran and medical school lecturer, addresses nine common myths about cannabis. Dr. Poling is a strong leader in teaching others why THC is too dangerous to allow in society, and we are honored to feature his research this month.

We anticipate another opportunity in 2027 to save our state from the many negative outcomes impacting states that have legalized THC products. We were very frustrated last year when our Governor vetoed a good bill, signed a bill to greatly expand “medical marijuana”, and grew our government by creating taxation and regulation around THC products. It is a money grab that will cost our state and fellow Texans more than most can imagine. Meanwhile, we are watching citizens in states that have legalized recreational and/or medical THC products, sometimes using the same “regulation” scheme, begin to reverse their course. They are struggling to live inside a state that made the big mistake - a mistake Texas must avoid.

continued on reverse ...

As we approach convention and prepare for the upcoming legislative session, our expenses continue to increase. This year, we have made a larger-than-normal investment to provide the Lunch and Learn event while costs associated with our booth and other regular operations continue to rise. If you are able to provide additional support during this season and as the legislative session approaches, we humbly ask for your help in covering the expenses involved in making a difference.

Please know that we carefully watch every dollar we spend. We think of our donors' contributions as being as precious as the biblical widow's mite. Your support enables us to continue equipping conservatives, defending biblical and constitutional values, and standing firmly for truth in Texas.

We value each of you so much. Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your desire to learn about the issues impacting our precious Texas families. Please pray that conservatives leave the convention unified and prepared to work together for biblical and constitutional values during the next legislative session. We must also unite to ensure patriot voters support and elect strong conservatives in November. We are living in times that will shape the future of our nation, and we must work together to preserve the extraordinary gift handed down to us by our founders, who risked everything to create this great nation.

Thank you again for your faithful financial support of Texas Eagle Forum and for standing with us in this important work. We pray you and your family have a safe, blessed, and joyful summer..

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindi Castilla".

Cindi Castilla
President
Texas Eagle Forum

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THE TORCH

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

June 2026

It's Time To Get THC Out of Texas

By Matt Poling, M.D.



This year, even the chronically pro-marijuana *New York Times* acknowledged their false assumptions about the impact of legalization and called for numerous new restrictions on the industry, stating in a headline editorial that it was “time to admit that America has a marijuana problem.” Tragically the same can now be said for Texas, despite the fact that we never voted for it.

In the U.S., 20 million people are daily users of cannabis products, which are many times stronger today than in 1992 when there were fewer than one million daily users during the “just say no” era of strict drug prohibition. The assurances that cannabis prohibition doesn’t work or that marijuana legalization would only affect the black market couldn’t have been more wrong. Republicans should be taking their marching orders from Ronald Reagan on this issue, not Joe Rogan, because increased cannabis use is having a severe impact on our mental, physical, and fiscal health.

Cannabis use not only comes with similar health injuries as tobacco, and similar impaired driving as alcohol, but also potentially severe psychiatric injuries. It is estimated that in young men, the prime

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cannabis-using population, up to 30% of new schizophrenia diagnoses are now attributable to marijuana use. Each new case of schizophrenia afflicts not just the patient and family but burdens the public with over 2 million dollars in lifetime costs, and this is just one example.

Using cannabis by any method significantly increases the risk for heart attacks and strokes. A recent large study showed that cannabis users quadrupled their risk of becoming diabetic and will thus incur 2.6 times more medical costs for a condition for which the U.S. spent over \$400 billions in 2023 alone. Clearly, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick had good reason to call on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to examine the impact of cannabis use on the state budget.

There are many ways in which western countries are fouling our own nest, and drug libertarianism is a big one. Perhaps Republicans should pause to consider why zero Asian countries have “recreational” marijuana while China actively promotes a thriving cannabis industry here. Thankfully, younger Republicans are having second thoughts about the GOP adding its fingerprints to this cultural suicide weapon.

According to Gallup, overall GOP support for marijuana legalization fell to 40% from 55% a few years ago, as more people are seeing with their own eyes what the latest science and timeless wisdom warned us about all along. More and more Americans are beginning to recognize that the Rogans are wrong on this issue and the Reagans were right.

While marijuana is often promoted as harmless or even beneficial, many claims surrounding its use are based more on perception than proven fact. Understanding the facts about marijuana is essential when there is so much on the line. So, in order to separate myth from reality, here are nine common misconceptions — along with the facts that challenge them.

Mythbuster #1: “Cannabis is medicine.”

Imagine if “big pharma” pushed a “medicine” on the public that cured nothing, but with side effects including addiction, impaired driving, suicidal ideation, schizophrenia, heart disease, and diabetes. This is exactly what “big pot” did by using medicalization as a “red herring” for their legalization agenda. Medical cannabis lacks adequate scientific backing for most of the conditions it is commonly used to treat, including acute pain, anxiety and insomnia, according to a recent comprehensive review led by UCLA Health.

Mythbuster #2: “Marijuana is safer than other substances.”

Because of the opioid epidemic, the public now often conflates safety with overdose risk. By this definition, marijuana would be “safer” than even alcohol. But LSD would be safer than table salt! There are many serious mental and physical risks to cannabis users and the public, including deaths from suicides, psychotic violence, car crashes, heart attacks, strokes, multiple cancers and child abuse and neglect fatalities. Here in Texas, marijuana is by far the most implicated substance in such tragic deaths of children by their own parents.

Mythbuster #3: “Marijuana isn’t very addictive.”

Despite not having the same physical withdrawal symptoms, today’s THC products are clearly more addictive than alcohol. Nearly half of THC users use daily, which is four times the daily-use rate for people who drink. Roughly a third of THC users meet criteria for addiction, and the addiction rate is even higher for “medical” marijuana users. True, most marijuana users don’t move on to harder drugs. But today’s marijuana *is* a hard drug and nearly all users of other drugs started with marijuana.



Mythbuster #4: “Marijuana is natural.”

Cannabis Sativa is a naturally occurring plant which produces small amounts of THC. THC fits certain receptors in the brain, thus hijacking the ECS (endocannabinoid system) in much the same way naturally occurring opiates or nicotine affects the brain. This is, of course, why people use such “natural” chemicals to get a temporary “high.” But this is also why they become addicted to THC and can suffer severe mood dysregulation and addiction. There is nothing natural about the industrialized high-potency marijuana plants of today, to say nothing of the even more concentrated THC products being pushed in smoke shops and gas stations.

Mythbuster #5: “Hemp THC is safer than marijuana.”

In 2018, the federal and state farm bills made low THC hemp plants legal for legitimate industrial purposes. At the time, senators like Rand Paul assured fellow legislators and the public that this was for “rope not dope.” But the hemp industry is mostly making dope by chemically converting the relatively harmless CBD in hemp into mostly delta-8 THC. This chemical acts on the same brain receptors as typical marijuana. The fact that it is somewhat less potent is easily overcome by using more of it, and the Texas “hemp” industry has been all too happy to oblige with increasingly potent products. Thanks to President Trump, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, and congressional Republican leaders, this loophole is scheduled to be closed this November, and the Supreme Court of Texas has just ruled that the Department of State Health Services has the authority to act even sooner in the interest of public health and safety.

Mythbuster #6: “Marijuana use is about personal freedom.”

Chemical slavery is *not* freedom. Even libertarians should acknowledge that libertarianism only works when people act in their own self-interest and that of their family and community. Chemicals such as THC are designed to promote the very opposite type of citizen. The profits from THC addiction accrue to a few very large, out-of-state and foreign companies while the costs are socialized to all the rest of us.

Mythbuster #7: “Banning marijuana is Big Government.”

Actually, attempting to regulate such an industry is Big Government and only adds to the many costs of marijuana legalization. A recent study out of Colorado estimated that for every dollar collected in marijuana sales taxes the state had to spend nearly five. It is a myth that anyone is in prison for simple marijuana possession. But countless numbers *are* in prison for the other crimes they committed under the influence of a substance known to be associated with acts of violence, especially in young men.



Mythbuster #8: “Marijuana should be taxed and regulated.”

The utopian notion that we can replace the black market for weed with a similar legal market has been disproven in 25 consecutive marijuana legal states. From commercialization and normalization, legalized pot creates new consumers for an industry which, unlike breweries or wineries, flaunts regulations and tax collection. All civilizations worth mentioning evolved using some form of alcohol, and thus we know how to manage its serious risks. No civilization has ever used THC products of the type and potency America is allowing today, and the evidence of the damage is mounting. In 2026, the “tax and safely regulate” marijuana state of Colorado is facing a massive budget shortfall due to lower-than-expected economic growth and higher-than-anticipated Medicaid spending. There are no free lunches. Eventually the tab comes due.

Mythbuster #9: “Legalized marijuana is inevitable.”

Marijuana is illegal at the federal level, and only half of states have legalized “recreational” marijuana. Recent legalization referendums such as Florida’s have been defeated, despite massive addiction industry spending. Polls are showing that pro-marijuana sentiment peaked about 3 years ago and has been in steady decline ever since, led by conservatives in marijuana-legal states recognizing that they were lied to. Texas should learn from other’s mistakes and not follow them in the wrong direction.

Is there any doubt that Reagan would tell us to “just say no” to legalization? ●●●

Matt Poling, M.D. is a family physician, veteran, medical school lecturer, and medical advisor for Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Texas.

Time to Cut the Grass - Can you smell that awful odor? If you live in one of the 40 states that have a form of legalized marijuana, then the answer is YES. It seems like marijuana and cannabis products are everywhere. The product is advertised on billboards with catchy names and candy colors. I receive advertising cards in the mail that promise a 50% discount on my first order. The “dispensaries” — a euphemism for pot shops — are often located on prime retail real estate. A mind-altering drug that is still illegal under federal law is now socially and politically accepted across America. It has been marketed as a kinder and gentler option to alcohol or opioids. Some users (wrongly) claim that they are still sober when under the influence of marijuana. Three-quarters of Americans incorrectly think that the regular use of either tobacco or alcohol are greater health risk than marijuana usage. Our society is a guinea pig for what happens when a significant portion of the population is under the influence. Thousands of years ago, the Chinese warned that marijuana would make you see “dragons.” Now those dragons are breathing fire in our communities. My new book, *Throwing Children Under the Cannabis*, is a manual for what you can do for your children and communities that have been infiltrated by marijuana. Please buy the book, distribute to your friends and family, and start a campaign to stop the proliferation of marijuana in your community. SOURCE: Anne Schlafly, Chairman, Eagle Forum, April 2026 Eagle Forum Report. To purchase a copy of Anne’s new book visit www.EagleForum.org/shop/books.html

What Happens if Texas Wins the Fight against Hemp-THC? - Texas officials are close to victory in a major fight against hemp-THC. And, depending on how things shake out with a proposed smokable hemp ban, it could be a total win for state officials looking to clamp down on the industry. A fight to keep certain products, such as delta-8 THC, on the shelves has essentially been lost after a ruling by the Texas Supreme Court this month that said Texas can ban delta-8 THC and other emerging threats. Hemp industry stakeholders are looking for rehearing on the legality of delta-8 THC. A federal ban is also coming down the pipeline on hemp products with THC levels above .4 milligrams. A delta-8 THC ban and the proposed smokable hemp ban could change the Texas THC landscape for the foreseeable future. SOURCE: Jacob Vaughn, WFAA.com, May 16, 2026.

European Author: ‘It Is Christianity They Are Trying To Censor’ - A Protestant bishop and pastor’s wife will appeal to the European Court of Human Rights the Finnish Supreme Court’s recent ban on their speech affirming what the Bible says about human sexuality. The appeal could take years amid escalating restrictions on free speech and religious expression across the continent. In its March decision, Finland’s Supreme Court tried to dodge the reality that its 3-2 conviction of Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Member of Parliament Paivi Rasanen criminalizes speech stating Christian theology about sex. It did acquit Rasanen of a charge for posting a Bible verse on X. But then it convicted her and Pohjola under Finland’s “hate crimes” laws for publishing a book discussing that men and women are different and sexually complementary. With that conviction, the court indicated Christians in Finland can quote the Bible, but not discuss, explain, or teach what it says. SOURCE: Joy Pullman, *The Federalist.com*, May 21, 2026.

GREAT AMERICAN QUOTE

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

- John Quincy Adams

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Freedom and responsibility are equally yoked. Only when they are in tandem can we cultivate the vast field of opportunity and have an orderly society.”

- Justice Clarence Thomas

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

Cindi Castilla
President

Jennifer Vermeulen
editor@texaseagleforum.com

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM
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Dallas, TX 75379

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