**4 ways that adult consumption of cannabis legislation will impact youth**

When Minnesota legislators began discussing the proposed adult consumption of cannabis legislation, the health of youth was on the forefront of the debate. There was testimony given in both the House and the Senate by experts in the field of psychology, sharing information on how cannabis effects the brain, specifically the growing, not yet developed adolescent brain. Experts are concerned, knowing that cannabis use among youth is currently at its highest in 30 years. Additionally the cannabis of today is much more potent compared to concentrations even 10 years ago. Despite efforts via the statues to protect our youth, they will still be impacted by this law. Below are 4 potential effects that coincide with adult consumption of cannabis:

* Use of cannabis in adolescents is likely to increase, due to increased availability and greater social acceptance.
* As a result of the increase in cannabis use, long term changes to the adolescent brain, including memory, learning, decision making and concentration are likely.
* Calls to poison control for cannabis exposures have already increased. Additionally, a significant increase in cannabis related emergency department visits has been seen, mostly attributed to cannabis edibles.
* Additionally, teen cannabis use is associated with a higher prevalence of depression, anxiety and ADD/ADHD.

Please reach out with questions or concerns to Candi Davenport MS LADC at cdavenport@relatemn.org.