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November 17, 2025

Straight Talk

Welcome to the latest edition of the Steered Straight Newsletter! We are thrilled to bring you updates on the impactful work that Michael DeLeon and the Steered Straight team are doing to support communities, young people, and families nationwide. Our mission is to inform, educate, and empower young people to make positive choices. Thank you for joining us on this journey to make a difference.



Parents, Teachers Are Sounding the Alarm

What your child says and does in school is revealing more than you think—and teachers are begging parents to pay attention. From kids who can't handle “no,” to parents undermining teachers in front of their children, to the dangers of handing a device over instead of human contact... these everyday choices at home are shaping how kids behave in class, and ultimately, how they succeed in life.

Click on the link michaeldeleonblog.org for a blog full of information, you'll learn:

- Why ignoring a teacher's concerns delays critical support
- How bailing kids out of failure cripples resilience
- The hidden damage of inflated grades and “cute” tantrum videos
- Why education *must* start at home—not in the classroom
- The long-term consequences when parents dismiss psychologists, minimize bullying, or treat teachers like babysitters

This isn't just about school—it's about prevention, resilience, and your child's future. Parents can not continue to ignore what goes on at schools or their roll

in raising their own children. There is not enough time in the day for a teacher to be both a formal educator and a parent. **Read the full article now to see the 19 urgent truths teachers wish every parent understood.**

Michael DeLeon

Road Warrior



How the Miles Make a Difference

WOW!!! What a Day! Michael didn't even have time to process it right Then. VERY Emotional Day!!! POWERFUL BEYOND WORDS!!! Thousands of Middle School and High School students and staff empowered with truth! Grateful beyond words!!! GO TROJANS!!!

Such an AMAZING DAY! WOW! Incredible, heartfelt feedback from these students and staff! Truly rewarding day - and our Pledge Banner was incredible and very touching, showing just how impacted these kids were!

Steered Straight

In The News

Federal bill triggers sweeping ban on popular THC products like gummies, vapes, beverages

By **Shubhangi Chowdhury** November 14, 2025



Image Credit: <https://www.fda.gov/>

A little-known provision in the federal spending bill signed by President Trump is poised to disrupt a fast-growing sector by prohibiting a wide range of THC-infused products. Items such as gummies, beverages, topical pain relievers and vapes, which have become common in gas stations and wellness stores across the country, could now be swept off the shelves under the new measure.

Hemp, which comes from the cannabis plant, was legalized under the 2018 Farm Bill. That move opened a loophole that allowed low-dose THC products to be sold legally, setting the stage for their rapid expansion into the mainstream consumer market.

The new restriction in the spending bill sets a strict limit, barring any product that contains more than 0.4 milligrams of THC in an entire package.

Industry leaders say the fallout could be severe. The U.S. Hemp Roundtable argues that the measure “threatens to eliminate

America's \$28.4 billion hemp industry and jeopardizes more than 300,000 American jobs." The group estimates that the change would erase 95 percent of the market, force small businesses and farms to close across the country, and strip states of about \$1.5 billion in tax revenue.

READ: World Food Movement launches in US to tackle hunger and food insecurity (September 30, 2025)

Sen. Rand Paul attempted to remove the provision by introducing an amendment to strike the language from the Senate version of the bill. His effort quickly failed, as the Senate voted by a wide margin to set his amendment aside.

Paul argued that the move "couldn't come at a worse time for America's farmers," telling colleagues on the Senate floor that the measure would "eradicate the hemp industry."

A hemp farmer named Stacy, who runs a small company in Woodstock, Illinois, called into the Washington Journal on C-SPAN to describe how the measure would upend her livelihood. She said the joint and muscle salve she produces, which "doesn't get anybody high – it's a topical product," would no longer be allowed under the new restrictions, leaving her business with little chance to survive. "They sneak that in and crush the industry. My business is completely over," she said.

"I have one year to wind this business down and nobody is talking about the hundreds of thousands of people, farmers, processors, retail stores. This is going to have incredible ripple effects across the economy."

READ: Del Monte, the 139-year-old canned fruit and vegetable company, files for bankruptcy protection (July 3, 2025)

Supporters of the measure say the crackdown is necessary. Sen. Mitch McConnell, a senior member of both the Agriculture and Appropriations Committees, contends that some companies have "exploited" the loophole created in 2018 by "taking legal

amounts of THC from hemp and turning it into intoxicating substances.”

That view is shared by dozens of state attorneys general, who sent a letter to Congress last month warning that the 2018 Farm Bill has been “wrongly exploited by bad actors to sell recreational synthetic THC products across the country.” They argued that the loophole has enabled the “rapid growth of an underregulated industry that threatens public health and safety and undermines law enforcement nationwide.”

The U.S. Hemp Roundtable counters that the restriction would sweep up the vast majority of products that are not designed to intoxicate. The group says more than 90 percent of non-intoxicating hemp items contain more than 0.4 milligrams per container, meaning seniors, veterans and others who use them for pain relief or sleep would suddenly be forced to break federal law to access them, “**disrupting their** care and leaving them scrambling for potentially harmful alternatives.”

On the Road to Recovery

Steered Straight and Recovery Army sat down with Kia Waller. Kia's addiction started in her late 20's but her late 30's is when she says it got really bad. Her 8th time in prison finally changed her life. She became clean and sober and was also in a 4-month program to find and keep her sobriety. When she got out and had made her mind up to stay clean, she had to make things right not only for herself but make amends with her loved ones. Kia became a champion i recovery that is helping people every single day to find a new path. She is a warm, compassionate, and amazing advocate. She walks the walk now and talks less! Intrigued? To hear the rest of Mia's story in her own words, please click on the link/photo below and watch her inspiring journey!

To see more stories of hope and inspiration please visit:

www.recoveryarmy.com



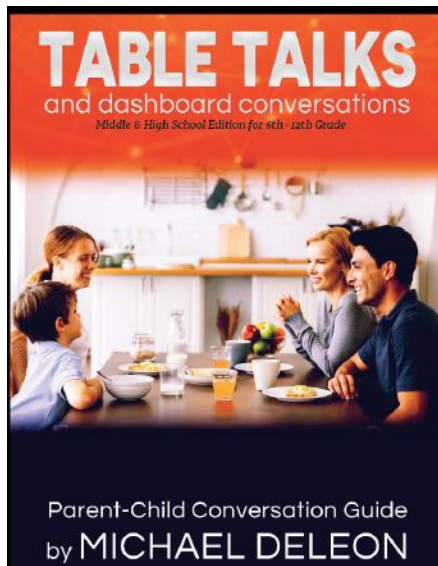
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TABLE TALKS

Michael has created workbooks for parents and children that guide them in managing relationships and discussing difficult topics beyond drug and alcohol abuse. Each month, he focuses on a different subjects and offers many different topics of conversation and activities you can do with your children to help foster that deep connection and communication that is so vital.



Table Talks and Dashboard Conversations is an in-depth Conversation Guide for Parents and Kids. You can order through [Amazon](#) or the [Steered Straight website](#).



The Month of November: Alcohol, Tobacco/Nicotine, Vaping, Drinking and Driving

The focus of November is alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, vaping, and drinking and driving. November is a great time before the holidays kick in to full gear to start talking to kids and young adults about these topics. This will encourage them to think before they act when faced with the unique challenges that come this time of year. There are so many social events, parties, and celebrations that involve alcohol and other substances. **This week I would like to encourage you to go to www.steeredstraight.org get the latest information on vaping. The sit down and have an honest discussion. Have your teen read out loud and along with you. Take turns reading and discussing. The "No Vape Zone" section under the**

"resources" tab is a great place to start. Have the conversation. Stress the importance and the consequences that can happen from just one time.

Spend the week building your kids up! The more we open up with kids, the more they will open up to the important adults in their lives.

Headlines We Are Following

[Warning: The Silent Opioid Crisis Hiding in Plain Sight - Kratom and the Lethal Power of 7-OH — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[Xylazine: The Rise of Flesh-Rotting Sedatives — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[Gender-Responsive Prevention: Meeting Youth Where They Are — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

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Contact Steered Straight

Michael and his team of professional Steered Straight speakers are eager to meet you in person and make a profound impact on your

students, staff, and community. To bring their inspiring message to your next event, contact Steered Straight to schedule.

[CONTACT STEERED STRAIGHT](#)

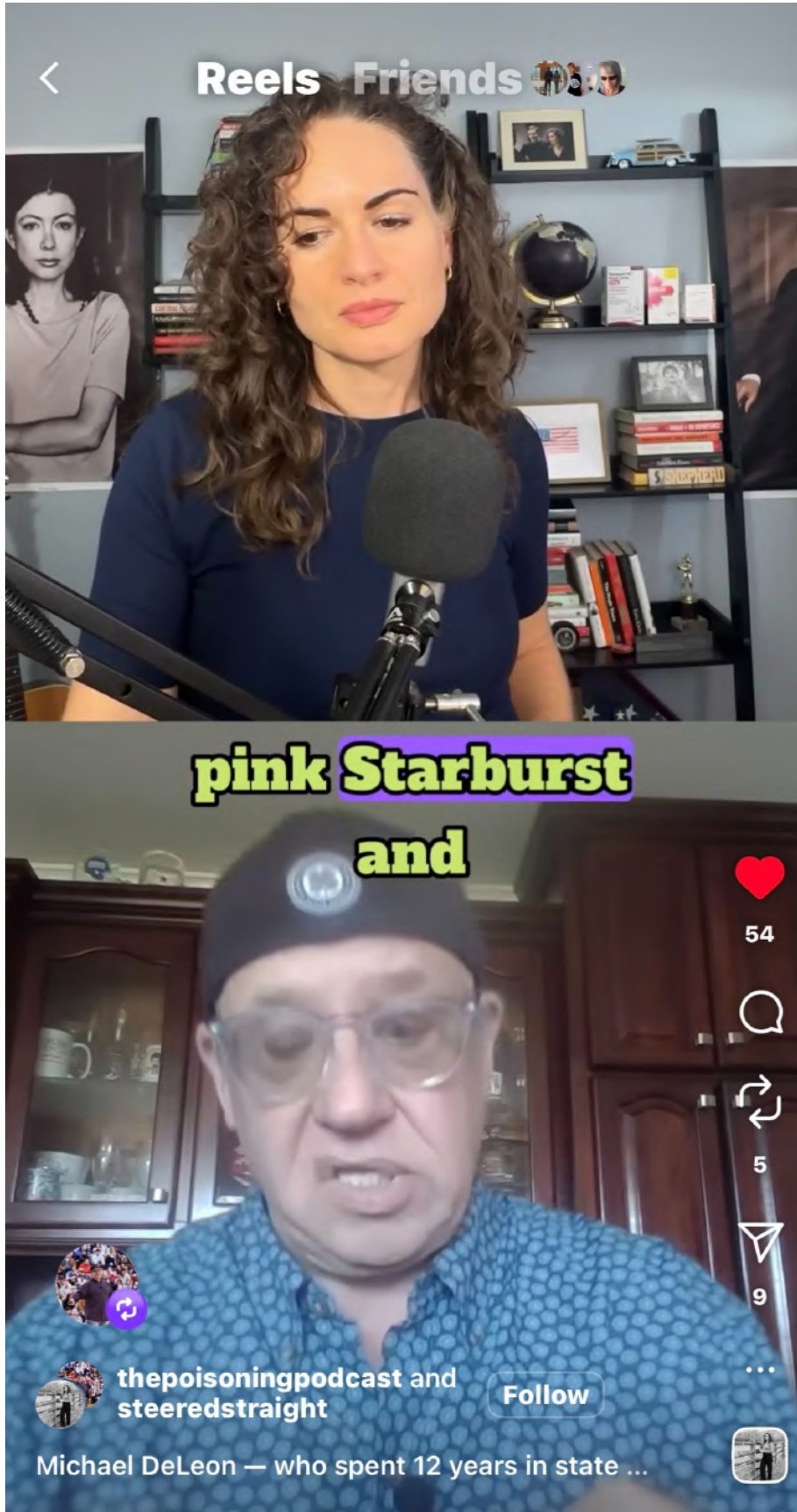


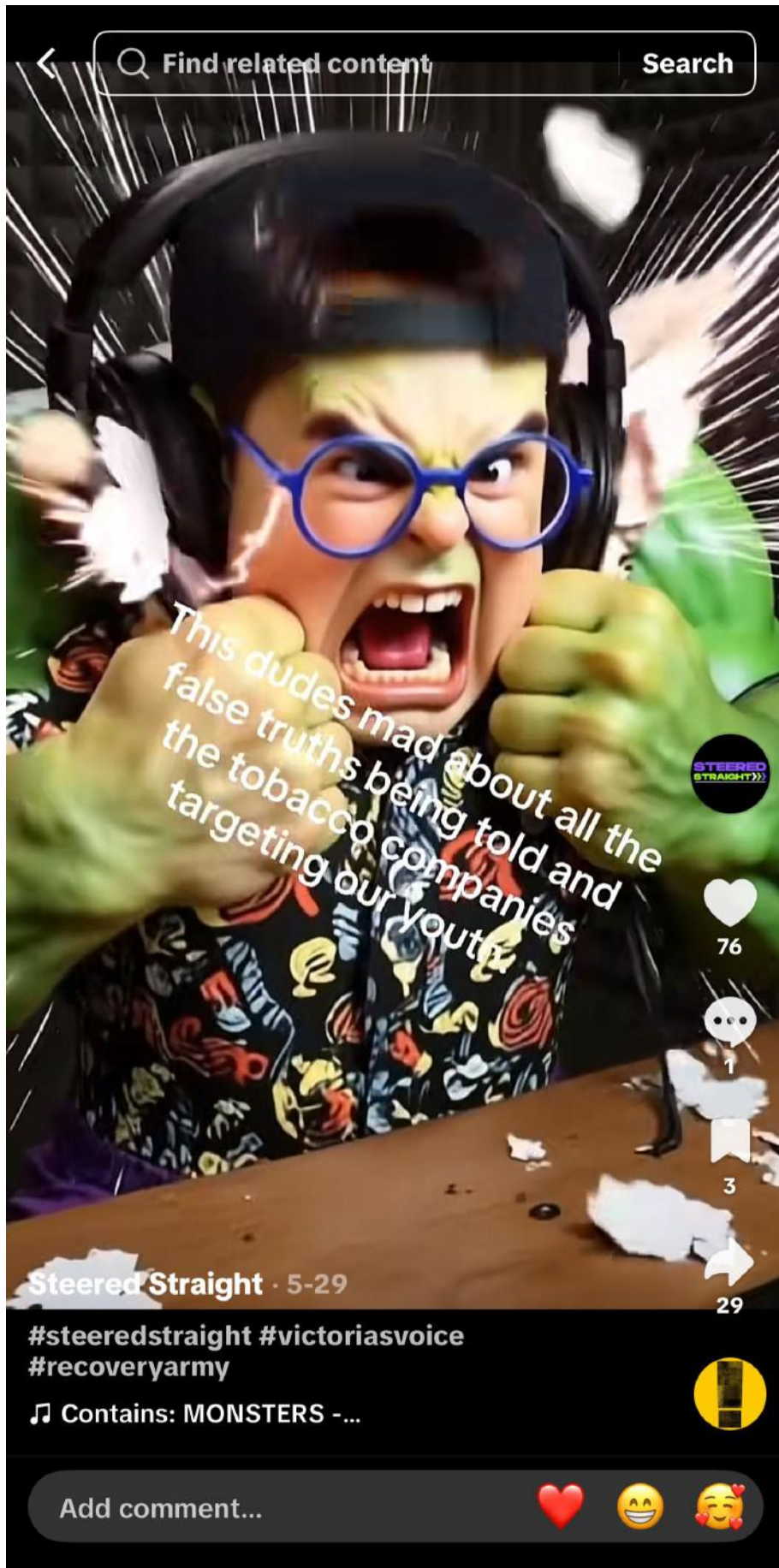
Follow On Social Media



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18K followers





Watch now on TikTok

@steeredstraight

Check out these awesome posts.

Check out a clip from Michael on a podcast!!

TIKTOK show Michael's angry side about how these companies lie to and mislead our kids!

Michael DeLeon and the team at Steered Straight are working hard to ensure this generation gets what they need to change the world. No other program like it and no one delivers the message better. All for the kids! Follow Michael and Steered Straight on social media so you don't miss a beat!

#steeredstraight #motivator #explore #advice #drugfree #antivaping #recovery #quitvaping #stayinyourlane



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