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December 15, 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 - you're being kept in the dark.

Some of the most critical, life-saving information about today's drug landscape is *not* reaching families...not because it doesn't exist, but because it's locked behind paywalls and subscription-only news outlets.

While fentanyl, counterfeit pills, and new synthetics spread faster than ever, the truth is this: **Only parents who can afford premium news access are getting the full picture.** And that should outrage every single one of us.

In this new blog, I break down:

- why essential drug information is being gatekept
- how this puts our kids at risk
- why "business as usual" in the news industry is failing families
- and what it means for the future of the generation we're trying to protect

If we don't fight for open access to the information that keeps our kids alive, we will lose more of them — and we will lose our future.

This is urgent. This is real. And every parent needs to read it.

[Click here to read the full blog.](#)

[Michael DeLeon Blog - Why Parents Are Being Shut Out of Life-Saving Drug Information - And Why That Should Outrage Every One of Us](#)

Michael DeLeon

Road Warrior



How the Miles Make a Difference

Upstate New York!!! - POWERFUL DAY - 2300 kids silent, engaged and connected! DOZENS of students afterwards crying, talking, asking advice, turning over vapes and THC pens. Over 20 of them were turned in. What's going on with this generation is profound and we are empowering this generation to rise above the noise.

AMAZING DAY !!! Snowstorms and Blizzards won't stop Michael from reaching people! He spent all afternoon inspiring beautiful young women in an incredible Catholic Charities program! Powerful reformation!!!

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In The News

Scientific Review Finds Little Evidence Supporting Most Medical Cannabis Claims

By Jennifer Timmerberg

A sweeping new scientific review is challenging some of the most widespread assumptions about medical cannabis, concluding that despite its soaring popularity, there is **little high-quality evidence** supporting its use for most of the conditions for which it is commonly recommended.

Researchers from UCLA Health and collaborating institutions analyzed more than **2,500 studies** on cannabis and cannabinoid products. Their findings reveal a stark gap between public belief and scientific reality: while millions of Americans now use cannabis for chronic pain, anxiety, insomnia, and a host of other ailments, the evidence supporting these uses remains **weak, inconsistent, or entirely absent**.

The review found that **only a handful of FDA-approved cannabinoid medications**—primarily those used for rare seizure disorders or chemotherapy-related nausea—have strong, reliable evidence of benefit. For the vast majority of other conditions, including chronic pain, anxiety,

depression, and sleep disorders, the data simply does not meet the threshold of rigorous, gold-standard science.

“Medical cannabis is widely used but rarely backed by solid science for its most common purposes,” the researchers noted, highlighting what they described as a “persistent gap between what people believe cannabis can do and what clinical evidence actually shows”.

The findings echo similar conclusions from international reviews, including one published this month that stated plainly: **“Medical cannabis lacks adequate scientific backing for most of the conditions it is commonly used to treat.”**

Despite this, public enthusiasm continues to grow. Many patients report subjective improvements in pain, mood, or sleep, and advocates argue that lived experience should carry weight. But researchers caution that anecdotal benefits—while meaningful—are not a substitute for controlled clinical trials.

The review also underscored potential risks, including dependency, impaired cognition, and interactions with other medications. These concerns, the authors argue, make the need for evidence-based guidance even more urgent.

As policymakers, clinicians, and patients navigate an increasingly complex cannabis landscape, the study’s authors urge caution: enthusiasm should not outpace evidence.

For now, the message from researchers is clear—**medical cannabis may help in specific, narrow circumstances, but its reputation as a cure-all is not supported by science.**

On the Road to Recovery

Steered Straight and Recovery Army sat down with Joseph Rojas. Joseph is the lead singer of one of today's most prolific Christian rock bands, Seventh Day Slumber. This band is intense, much like the recovery story of Joseph Rojas himself. He is an inspiring man, one of the most inspiring Michael has met. Joseph overcame so much to get to where he is it and now is an amazing recovery advocate and has such a wonderful platform to reach out and inspire others. To hear his story of addiction and more importantly his story of recovery, please click the link below and hear him tell it in his own words. Keep up the good work Joseph Rojas, and thank you for sharing your story.

To see more stories of hope and inspiration please visit:

www.recoveryarmy.com



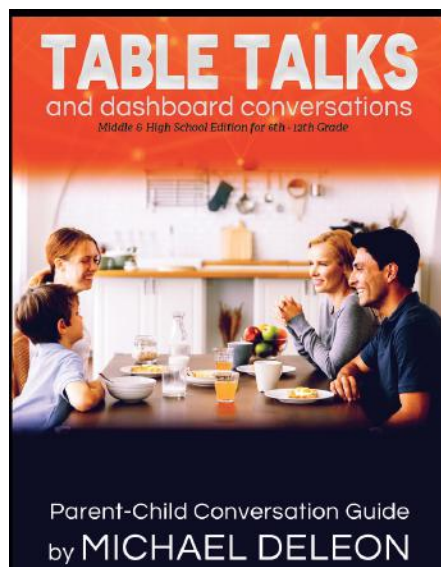
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TABLE TALKS

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 December:
Core Values, Peer
Assimilations & Peer
Pressure**

The focus of December is core values, peer assimilation and peer pressure. December is designated to helping teens develop integrated skills. This month we guide teens on how developing and implementing an effective personal wellness plan contributes to healthy decision-making over one's lifetime. This is done using tools that include our Self-Actualizing Scales. **This week I**

would like to have a conversation with your children about exactly how self-actualization can be helpful to them. Self-actualization is one of the most powerful, underrated protective factors in youth drug prevention, and most parents have never even heard the term. When you break it down into real-world behaviors, it becomes obvious why it matters so much. Self-actualization helps kids stay away from drugs because it gives them a strong sense of who they are and what they want for their lives. When young people feel confident, capable, and connected to their own goals and values, they don't need substances to fit in, cope, or feel better about themselves. They understand their emotions instead of trying to escape them, and they build real resilience — the ability to handle stress, pressure, and setbacks without falling apart. Kids who feel purposeful and supported are less likely to look for relief or identity in dangerous places.

Self-actualization also strengthens critical thinking, helping teens make better decisions in the moment and think about long-term consequences. Most importantly, it grows out of connection — with family, mentors, and community — and connection is one of the strongest protective factors we have. When kids feel seen, valued, and grounded in who they are, they're naturally protected from substance use and better equipped to thrive in every area of their lives.

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

[Phenibut: The Silent Threat Teens Are Buying Online — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[No One is Safe: Fentanyl & Nitazenes Are Hiding in Plain Sight — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[A National Collapse: Why Drug and Alcohol Use is More Than a Youth Problem — 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](#)

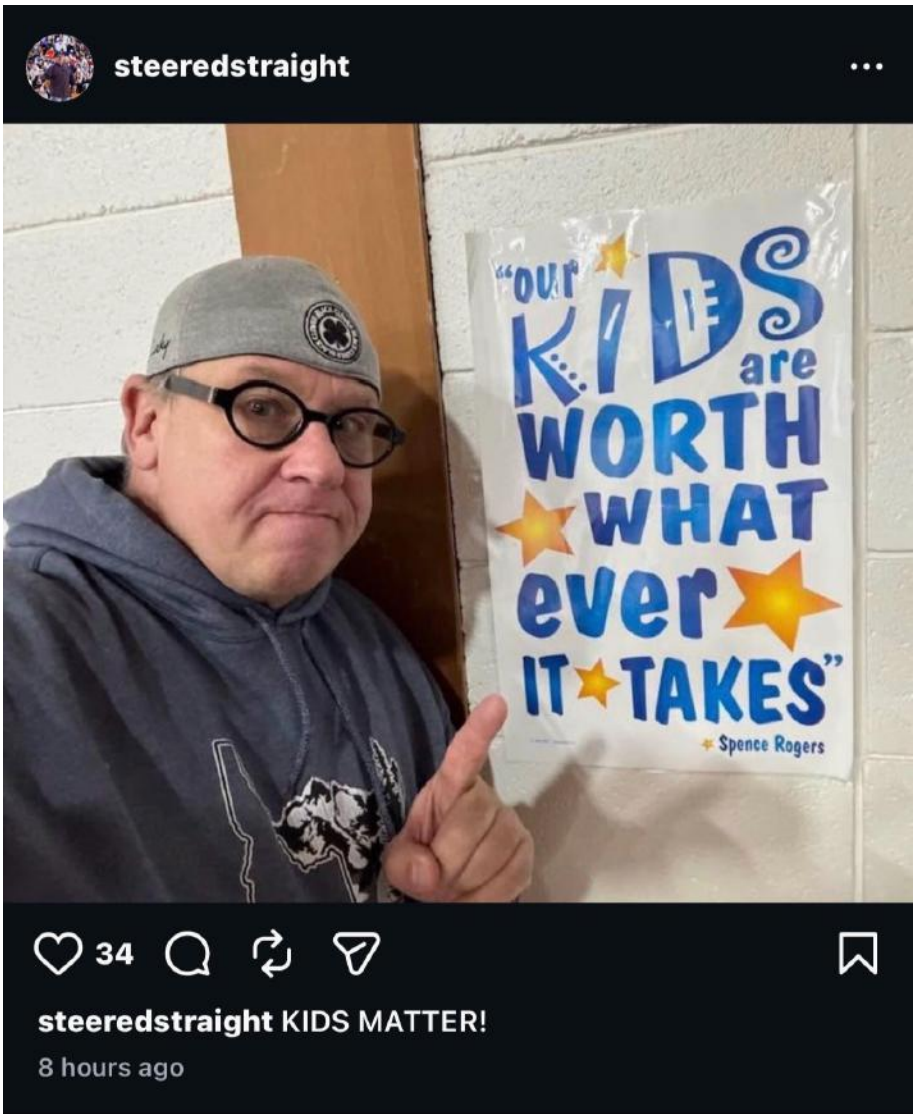


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Watch now on TikTok

@steeredstraight

Check out these awesome posts.

Instagram - That sign couldn't be any more truthful. Michael DeLeon and Steered Straight truly believes that it is worth whatever it takes to help kids. Michael travels nonstop and puts maximum effort out 100% of the time!

TIKTOK - an oldie from last year....the only decent use for a vape, but that snowman certainly didn't have a long life!

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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