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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**First Call Statement on the Passage of Amendment 3 in Missouri**

**November 9, 2022 – [Kansas City, Missouri]** The passage of Amendment 3 in Missouri will bring legal, recreational cannabis to our state, heightening the importance of prevention programming with our youth. First Call's role is to educate our community about the risk factors that legalized marijuana poses to our young people -- easy availability, low perception of harm and high potency cannabis that can lead to mental health and/or substance use disorder. Simultaneously, we need to acknowledge the systemic harm that nonviolent cannabis-related charges have brought to local families, particularly with Black and Brown families, for decades. The expungement component of Amendment 3 does not remedy the historic harms, but it serves as a step in the right direction.

As this new reality settles in, let First Call be part of your conversation. We are here to educate the Kansas City community, to prevent substance use among youth and to help folks find recovery from addiction.

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For additional information, contact Nikki Thorn at 816-800-8060 or email [nthorn@firstcallkc.org](mailto:nthorn@firstcallkc.org).

**It is the mission of First Call to reduce the impact of alcohol, drugs, and addiction by providing quality resources to individuals, children, families, and the community. Our prevention harm reduction, and recovery services impact over 60,000 individuals each year in the Kansas City area.**