

RESOLUTION

The Michigan Association of Preventive Medicine and Public Health Physicians

Resolution Opposing the Recreational Use of Marijuana

(This resolution does not relate to the use of marijuana approved for medical purposes in compliance with current state law)

Whereas, proposals for the recreational use of marijuana are being placed on the ballot in communities across Michigan; and

Whereas, there is significant evidence demonstrating that non-medical or recreational use of marijuana has a profoundly negative impact on our youth, particularly teenagers; and

Whereas, Only 1 in 4 Michigan youth view marijuana use as risky; and

Whereas, *The National Institute on Drug Abuse* reports that one in six teens that use marijuana become addicted to its use; and

Whereas, *Monitoring the Future, 2017* reports that marijuana use increased to 24% among adolescents in 8th, 10th and 12th grades combined and one in ten 12th grade students vaped marijuana in the past year; and

Whereas, drug related school expulsions increased 45% in Colorado over the four years after the state legalized recreational marijuana use; and

Whereas, in the state of Washington, where recreational marijuana was legalized in 2012, an average of 10% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes between 2010 and 2014 had detectable THC in their blood and the number of drivers in fatal crashes positive for THC doubled from the prior four years; and

Whereas, Colorado reports that marijuana-impaired driver related fatalities have risen 114% in Colorado since that state legalized the use of marijuana; and

Whereas, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), has increased in concentration approximately 80 times from 1995 to 2014, making today's marijuana an alarmingly more potent drug; and

Whereas, general marijuana use and possession is not permitted by federal law; and

Whereas, it is not possible to foresee and mitigate all the associated risks and impact to our communities through the recreational use of marijuana; and

Whereas, The Michigan Association of Preventive Medicine and Public Health Physicians recognizes the need to educate all sectors of our community regarding the dangers of non-medical marijuana use;

Whereas, marijuana is now the number one reason kids enter treatment for substance abuse—more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, ecstasy, and other drugs combined and

Whereas, increased consumption of marijuana would likely lead to higher public health and financial costs for society. Addictive substances like alcohol and tobacco already result in much higher social costs

than the revenue they generate. The cost to society of alcohol alone is estimated to be more than 15 times the revenue gained by their taxation; and

Whereas: Marijuana legalization would not eliminate the black market for the drug; and

Whereas: emergency room admissions for marijuana use now exceed those for heroin and are continuing to rise, and; marijuana is linked to suicidal ideation, thoughts of suicide, and suicide completion, and

Wherefore Be It Resolved, The Michigan Association of Preventive Medicine and Public Health Physicians is opposed to the legalization of marijuana for general use; and

Be It Further Resolved, The Michigan Association of Preventive Medicine and Public Health Physicians encourages others to oppose the recreational use of marijuana for general use including the adoption of similar resolutions in opposition to the general use of legalization of non-medical marijuana.

The Michigan Association of Preventive Medicine and Public Health Physicians confirms its support for each and all of the above statements.

Date: _____

President Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Number of Members: _____

Contact Person: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax/E-mail: _____

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- SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2012, 2013, and 2014.
 - National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health (2013). Marijuana Facts for Teens.
 - Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan (2017). National Adolescent Drug Trends in 2017: Findings Released.
 - McCrimmon, K., Mitchell, N. (2016). Under Siege: Marijuana and Colorado Schools. Rocky Mountain PBS News.
 - Tefft, B., Arnold, L., & Grabowski, J. (2016). Prevalence of Marijuana Use Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes; Washington, 2010-2014. *AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety*.
 - Rocky Mountain HIDTA Investigative Support Center Strategic Intelligence Unit. The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact, Volume 4. Sept. 2016. Web. 23 Oct. 2016.
 - ElSohly, M. A., Mehmedic, Z., Foster, S., Gon, C., Chandra, S., & Church, J. C. (2016). Changes in cannabis potency over the last 2 decades (1995–2014): analysis of current data in the United States. *Biological psychiatry*, 79(7), 613-619.
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Center for Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through October 15, 2012.
 - Ellen E. Bouchery, Henrick J. Harwood, Jeffrey J. Sacks, Carol J. Simon, Robert D. Brewer. *Economic Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption in the U.S., 2006*. American Journal of Preventive Medicine - November 2011 (Vol. 41, Issue 5, Pages 516-524, DOI: 10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.045)
 - Kilmer, Beau, et al., *Reducing Drug Trafficking Revenues and Violence in Mexico: Would Legalizing Marijuana in California Help?* RAND Corporation. [2010].
 - Kilmer, Beau, et al., *Altered States? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets*. RAND Corporation. [2010]
 - SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2011). *Drug abuse warning network, 2008: National estimates of drug-related emergency department visits* (FHS Publication No. SMA 11-4618). Rockville, MD: Author.



TO THE CITIZENS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN: Your Board of Health respectfully submits to you the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Berrien County Board of Health feels strongly that the health and safety of our residents should be the primary focus of any and all legislation considered; and

WHEREAS, recreational marijuana places a significant strain on our health care system, and poses considerable danger to the health and safety of the users themselves, their families, and our communities; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use, particularly long-term, chronic use that begins at a young age, can lead to dependence and addiction as supported by *The National Institute on Drug Abuse* who reports that 9% of people who use marijuana will become dependent on it, with a risk of addiction increasing to roughly 17% for those who start using in their teens; and

WHEREAS, recent findings from Colorado's Retail Marijuana Public Health Advisory Committee have shown that regular use of marijuana by adolescents and young adults is associated with impaired learning, memory, math and reading, as well as failure to graduate high school; these adolescents and young adults are more likely to have psychotic symptoms as adults further burdening community mental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have found that individuals using cannabis are more likely to abuse opioids, adding further risk of increasing the public health epidemic of opioid abuse; and

WHEREAS, there is biological evidence that demonstrates that Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) can pass through the placenta to the fetus of a mother who uses marijuana during pregnancy or to a baby through breastfeeding; these effects are seen for months to years after birth and can cause decreased growth, impaired cognitive function and attention and an increase in depression symptoms; and

WHEREAS, increased consumption of marijuana would likely lead to higher public health and financial costs for society, far outweighing the potential revenue it could generate; this is observed through national revenue from alcohol and tobacco taxes and fees of \$39 billion per year, however, the legal, health, social and regulatory costs exceed \$449 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, the legalization of recreational marijuana would not eliminate the black market for the drug, as evidenced by experiences from states like Colorado, that continues to struggle with persistent black market activity including drug cartels that trade marijuana for heroin

and take marijuana back to Mexico; this increase in drug trade has also increased human trafficking and prostitution by 223% between 2014 and 2016; and

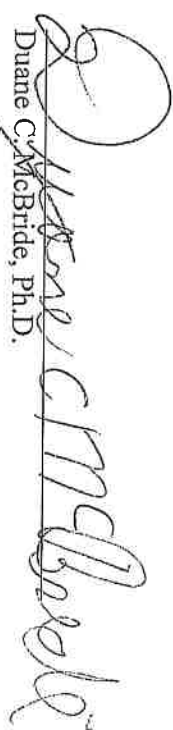
WHEREAS, there has been limited attention given to the development of regulations and oversight, penalties for sale to minors and/or misuse, standardization of dosing levels, prevention education and early intervention counseling for minors, or an infrastructure for addressing industry safety issues and needs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Berrien County Board of Health and Berrien County Health Department strongly oppose the use of marijuana for recreational purposes and will continue to inform and educate residents and policymakers on the potential harms, risk factors, and devastating public health effects that expanding marijuana use could have in the State of Michigan.

Resolution adopted
this 4th day of April, 2018
by the

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH


Margaret Kohring, Board Chair


Duane C. McBride, Ph.D.


Joseph Wasserman, Vice Chair


Vanessa Brown


John Carter, M.D.


Raymond Matejczyk


Linda Strohl

Health Department of Northwest Michigan

RESOLUTION

In an official session, on June 5, 2018, the following resolution was approved by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan Board of Health:

WHEREAS, Michigan Senate Bill 897 of 2018 would amend the Social Welfare Act to add workforce engagement requirements for "able-bodied" adults on Medicaid;

WHEREAS, SB 897 requires that people who do not sufficiently document compliance with the work requirements will be "prohibited from receiving medical assistance for 1 year";

WHEREAS, this bill will cause an estimated 150,000 Michiganders to lose access to health insurance;

WHEREAS, the bill places onerous and unreasonable reporting requirements on vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, evidence from other social welfare programs shows many people who should be exempted from work requirements due to poor health or disability often fall through the cracks and lose coverage;

WHEREAS, access to Medicaid coverage in Michigan has been shown to improve health, help unemployed enrollees look for jobs, and help employed enrollees better perform at work;

WHEREAS, loss of health care coverage leads to worsened health and decreased ability to participate in the workforce;

WHEREAS, SB 897 does not provide funding for addressing common employment barriers like childcare, transportation, or high unemployment rates;

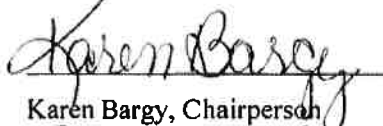
WHEREAS, this bill will place unreasonable and costly administrative burdens on state agencies;

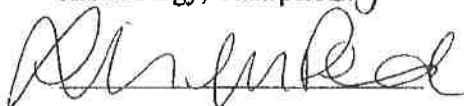
WHEREAS, not enough is known about the likely costs, savings, or long-term impact of Medicaid work requirements, but waiting to learn from the results of work requirement policies in other states will provide necessary information to develop sound policy for Michigan Medicaid;

WHEREAS, this bill undercuts the purpose of Medicaid, which is to provide access to medical care for people whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for the cost of necessary care;

WHEREAS, SB 897 will put health coverage at risk for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Michigan residents, and therefore impedes the mission of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, as mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code, to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality health care, and address health problems of vulnerable populations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan has strong concerns of the public health consequences that will result from Michigan Senate Bill 897, or from any bill that makes Medicaid coverage conditional upon meeting work requirements.

 6/5/18
Karen Bargy, Chairperson

 6/5/18
Lisa Peacock, Health Officer

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—OPPOSE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA FOR
GENERAL USE**

WHEREAS, proposals to legalize the general use of marijuana are being placed on the ballot in communities across Michigan; and

WHEREAS, there is significant evidence demonstrating that non-medical or recreational use of marijuana has a profoundly negative impact on youth; and

WHEREAS, Allegan County youth report a decreased perception of risk of marijuana use and the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey reports in 2015 that only 50% of students thought marijuana was risky, 32% of students surveyed reported that it would be easy or very easy to get marijuana, and 24% reported that they have tried marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the *National Institute on Drug Abuse*; reports that one in six teens that use marijuana become addicted to its use; and

WHEREAS, *Monitoring the Future*, 2013 reports that in states where medical marijuana use has been legalized, about one third of 12th graders reported access to another person's medical marijuana supply; and

WHEREAS, *Rocky Mountain HIDTA*, 2015 reports that there was a 40 percent increase in drug-related suspensions and

expulsions in Colorado from school year 2008/2009 to 2013/2014, a state in which the general use of marijuana has been legalized; and

WHEREAS, *National Highway Traffic Association* reports that driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with an increased risk of car crashes, especially fatal crashes; and

WHEREAS, the University of Colorado, Denver reports that marijuana-impaired driver related fatalities have risen 114% in Colorado since that state legalized the general use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, *Join Together* reports that the active ingredient in marijuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), has increased significantly from an average of 1% in 1970 to 30% in 2013, making today's marijuana an alarmingly more potent drug; and

WHEREAS, general marijuana use and possession is not permitted by Federal and Michigan State Law; and

WHEREAS, it is not possible to foresee and mitigate all the associated risks and impact to our communities through the legalization of marijuana for general use; and

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to educate all sectors of our community regarding the dangers of non-medical marijuana use.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners is opposed to the legalization of marijuana for general use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Allegan County Board of Commissioners encourages other communities to oppose the legalization of marijuana for general use including the adoption of similar resolutions in opposition to the legalization of non-medical marijuana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the County Clerk will provide copies of this Resolution to the Township, City/Villages within Allegan County, and State Representatives and Senator.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Storey to adopt the resolution as amended. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas - 6 votes. Excused: 1 vote.

ATTEST, A TRUE COPY



Clerk-Register

APPROVED: June 8, 2017

cc: Admin. - Finance - Human Resources