

**AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2017  
RESOLUTION: A8**

INTRODUCED BY: Kelly Thibert DO, MPH, National President;

SCHOOL: Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

SUBJECT: Principles regarding the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco

TYPE: Resolution of Principles

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1 WHEREAS cannabis/marijuana has been used medicinally for centuries, even being prescribed  
2 by physicians in the United States until 1937<sup>1</sup> ; and

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4 WHEREAS “marijuana” prohibition began with the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937<sup>1</sup> not secondary  
5 to any public health concerns but rather concerns over the business industry; and

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7 WHEREAS it has been shown that medical marijuana is effective in treating a wide range of  
8 symptoms in a variety of conditions including but not limited to control of nausea and vomiting,  
9 promotion of weight gain, seizures, painful peripheral neuropathy, and muscle spasticity<sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup>;  
10 and

11  
12 WHEREAS there has not been a reported fatal overdose with cannabis; and

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14 WHEREAS we have read reports, such as the one from the Surgeon General<sup>6</sup>, regarding the  
15 issues with opioids, yet we still need alternatives to treatment for patients; and

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17 WHEREAS there are several states paving the pathway for the use of medical marijuana who are  
18 consistently reporting data regarding patient use and public health concerns<sup>7</sup>; and

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20 WHEREAS We being the innovative voices in the medical community should be open minded  
21 enough to listen to patients and public health departments in terms of advancing medicine;

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23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding the use of illegal drugs,  
24 alcohol and tobacco (pp 47-50) be amended by ADDITION to state:

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26 **27. In regard to medical marijuana:**

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28 a. **RECOGNIZES** that there is support for the medical use of marijuana and advocates that  
29 usage be based on high quality, patient-centered, evidence-based research.

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- 31 b. RECOGNIZES the need for further studies into the use of medical marijuana and related  
32 compounds.  
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34 c. BELIEVES that the Food and Drug Administration should change marijuana's  
35 classification for the purpose of facilitating clinical research; this process should also  
36 ensure that funding be available for such research.  
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39 FISCAL NOTE: None

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42 References

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44 <sup>1</sup> Mikuriya TH, Ed.; Marijuana: Medical Papers 1839-1972. Oakland, CA: Medi-Comp Press,  
45 1973.

46 <sup>2</sup> Abrams DI, Jay CA, Shade SB, et al. Cannabis in painful HIV-associated sensory neuropathy: a  
47 randomized placebo-controlled trial. *Neurology*. 2007;68(7):515–21.

48 <sup>3</sup> Zajicek J, Fox P, Sanders H, et al. Cannabinoids for treatment of spasticity and other symptoms  
49 related to multiple sclerosis (CAMS study): multicentre randomised placebo-controlled trial.  
50 *Lancet*. 2003;362(9395):1517–26.

51 <sup>4</sup> Svendsen KB, Jensen TS, Bach FW. Does the cannabinoid dronabinol reduce central pain in  
52 multiple sclerosis? Randomised double blind placebo controlled crossover trial. *BMJ*.  
53 2004;329(7460):53.

54 <sup>5</sup> Beal JE, Olson R, Lefkowitz L, et al. Long-term efficacy and safety of dronabinol for acquired  
55 immunodeficiency syndrome-associated anorexia. *J Pain Symptom Manag*. 1997;14(1):7–14.

56 <sup>6</sup> <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/surgeon-generals-report.pdf>

57 <sup>7</sup> Ghosh, T.S., Van Dyke, M. Maffey, A., Whitley, E., Erpelding, D., & Wlk, L. (2015). Medical  
58 marijuana's public health lessons – implications for retail marijuana in Colorado. *New England*  
59 *Journal of Medicine*, 372 (11) 991-993. Doi: 10.1056/jenmp1500043  
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62 **REPORT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE A**

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64 **DISCUSSION**

65 BOT: Adopt as written.

66 BRD: N/A

67 PRD: Recommend to adopt as written

68 IRD: recommends to adopt as written

69 ACTE: recommends to adopt as written

70 Premedical Caucus: N/A

71 Other Groups: Northeast Ohio Medical University AMSA chapter recommends to adopt as  
72 written.

73  
74 **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:**

75 **PROS:** No proposition testimony provided

76 **CONS:** No proposition testimony provided

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78 **REFERENCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

79 The majority of the regions and caucuses were for this resolution; the majority voted  
80 unanimously to adopt as written

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83 **REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

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85 Adopt as written

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