

**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

1 WHEREAS cannabis/marijuana has been used medicinally for centuries, even being prescribed
2 by physicians in the United States until 1937¹; and

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4 WHEREAS “marijuana” prohibition began with the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937¹ not secondary
5 to any public health concerns but rather concerns over the business industry; and

6
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^{2, 3, 4, 5};
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 General⁶, regarding the
15 issues with opioids, yet we still need alternatives to treatment for patients; and

16
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 concerns⁷; and

19
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;

22
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:

- 27
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.
30

b. RECOGNIZES the need for further studies into the use of medical marijuana and related compounds.

c. BELIEVES that the Food and Drug Administration should change marijuana's classification for the purpose of facilitating clinical research; this process should also ensure that funding be available for such research.

FISCAL NOTE: None

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References

¹ Mikuriya TH, Ed.; Marijuana: Medical Papers 1839-1972. Oakland, CA: Medi-Comp Press, 1973.

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

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

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

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

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

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