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American Medical Student Association

House of Delegates 2022

Resolution:

Introduced by: Zoreed Mukhtar, Nadiya Yerich, Israa Ismail, Chelsea Shu, Raj Patel

School(s): Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, UNC School of Medicine, CUNY Brooklyn College, Harvard College, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine

Subject: Principles Regarding Healthcare in the Criminal Justice System

Type: Addition to Principles

WHEREAS in 2019, the FBI reported 663,367 cannabis arrests and citations. This is more arrests than for all violent crimes combined. FBI data showed that police only cleared 33% of rapes, 31% of robberies, and 14% of burglaries by making an arrest [1].

WHEREAS according to the FBI, there have been more than 15 million cannabis arrests in the U.S. since 1995. While cannabis consumers who were not convicted have gone on to be President or Supreme Court Justice, a criminal conviction can stand in the way of securing a job, getting housing, or receiving a professional license, student loan, food assistance, or driver's license [1].

WHEREAS according to the ACLU, Black individuals are more than 3.5 times as likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white individuals nationwide, despite similar rates of use [1].

WHEREAS illicit cannabis growers sometimes use banned pesticides, divert waterways, and leave hazardous waste in state and national parks. Regulated cannabis businesses are monitored to ensure compliance with zoning and environmental laws [2].

WHEREAS cannabis is safer than alcohol. Researchers have concluded that cannabis is less toxic than alcohol, it has less potential for addiction, and it is less likely to contribute to serious medical problems [2].

WHEREAS traffic deaths and arrests for DUIs do not increase, and may decrease, when marijuana is legalized. Traffic deaths dropped 11% on average in states that legalized medical

31 marijuana. Arrests for driving under the influence have decreased in Washington and Colorado
32 [3].

33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the (Principles Regarding Healthcare in the Criminal
34 Justice System) (pg. 170) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

35 The American Medical Student Association

36 1. **SUPPORTS the legalization of marijuana at the federal and state levels and the**
37 **declassification of marijuana as a scheduled I controlled substance.**

38 Fiscal Note: None

39 Citations:

40 1. Marijuana Policy Project. (2022). Top 10 reasons to legalize and regulate cannabis. MPP.
41 Retrieved February 1, 2022, from [https://www.mpp.org/issues/legalization/top-ten-reasons-to-](https://www.mpp.org/issues/legalization/top-ten-reasons-to-end-marijuana-prohibition/)
42 [end-marijuana-prohibition/](https://www.mpp.org/issues/legalization/top-ten-reasons-to-end-marijuana-prohibition/)

43 2. ProCon/Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. (2022, January 26). Should Recreational Marijuana Be
44 Legal? Recreational Marijuana. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://marijuana.procon.org/>

45 3. Green, T. V. (2021, April 16). Americans overwhelmingly say marijuana should be legal for
46 recreational or medical use. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from
47 [https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/16/americans-overwhelmingly-say-marijuana-](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/16/americans-overwhelmingly-say-marijuana-should-be-legal-for-recreational-or-medical-use/)
48 [should-be-legal-for-recreational-or-medical-use/](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/16/americans-overwhelmingly-say-marijuana-should-be-legal-for-recreational-or-medical-use/)

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