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Title: Oppose Recreational Marijuana Use  
Introduced by: Lee P. Begrow, DO, for the Kent County Delegation  
Original Author: Sandy Dettmann, MD  
Referred to: Reference Committee D  
House Action: **APPROVE**

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Whereas, proposals to legalize the general recreational use of marijuana are being placed on the ballot across Michigan, and

Whereas, general recreational marijuana use and possession is not permitted by federal or state law, and

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

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, the National Institute on Drug Abuse’s Monitoring the Future 2017 Survey reports that marijuana use increased to 24 percent among adolescents in eight, tenth and twelfth grades combined and one in ten twelfth grade students vaped marijuana in the past year, and

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

Whereas, increased consumption of marijuana would likely lead to higher public health and financial costs for society, and

Whereas, addictive substances like alcohol and tobacco already result in much higher social costs than the revenue they generate with the cost to society of alcohol alone is estimated to be more than 15 times the revenue gained by their taxation, and

Whereas, emergency room admissions for marijuana use now exceed those for heroin and are continuing to rise; the link between suicide and marijuana is strong, 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 recreational use; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS opposes legalization of marijuana for general recreational use; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS collaborate with other stakeholders to oppose the legalization of marijuana for general recreational use.

## **Relevant MSMS Policy:**

### **Marijuana for Medical Use**

MSMS supports the use of cannabinoids by routes other than smoking for medical uses, for which scientific evidence supports efficacy equal or superior to established therapies and encourages further research to elucidate the efficacy of cannabinoids in various medical conditions and its optimal dosage and route of delivery. (Res59-08A)

### **Smokeless Marijuana Treatments**

MSMS supports a smokeless society and replacing smoked marijuana with tablets or oral spray manufactured by a reputable and licensed company and available only by prescription. (Res87-10A)

### **Marijuana**

MSMS considers marijuana abuse a public health problem with potentially severe adverse effects on health. (Prior to 1990)

– Edited 1998