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3 Title: Dangers of Adolescent Access to Marijuana  
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5 Introduced by: Robert Sain, MD  
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7 Original Author: Robert Sain, MD  
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee D  
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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**  
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14 Whereas, in the upcoming November election, citizens in Michigan may vote for the legalization of  
15 marijuana for recreational use, and

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17 Whereas, marijuana<sup>1</sup> is a plant with a complex range of substances to which individuals are drawn  
18 for getting "high" and for relief from anxiety and depression, and

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20 Whereas, we know that the human brain does not reach maturity (by MRI) until age 25 or so, and

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22 Whereas, we know that it is in adolescence that the brain lays down its neurological platform for a  
23 person's future life, and

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25 Whereas, a useful primer is *The Teenage Brain* (Frances E Jensen MD, HarperCollins, New York,  
26 2015), and

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28 Whereas, marijuana is being pushed in Michigan by growers in California and Oregon and by  
29 cartels who have interest in capitalizing on the potential profit from marijuana marketing, and

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31 Whereas, states like Colorado, California, and Oregon are still in the process of understanding the  
32 individual and social impact of legalizing this substance since the outcome of legitimization in these states  
33 is currently in the experimental stage, and

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35 Whereas, the federal government has continued to prohibit the study of the short and long-term  
36 effects (positive and negative) of marijuana, and

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38 Whereas, we know some of the negative effects vis-a-vis the use/abuse of this substance where  
39 adolescents are concerned including addiction, a dampening of motivation to take on life's challenges, a  
40 lowered IQ compared with nonusers, psychosis in some children/adolescents, a peculiar hyperemesis  
41 syndrome for heavy users, and

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43 Whereas, physicians are on the front-line for addressing the prevention of predictable harmful  
44 outcomes of poisoning from substances such as marijuana; therefore be it

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46 RESOLVED: That MSMS convene a committee of physicians with expertise on the potential and  
47 known risks of marijuana, particularly as it concerns children and adolescence, to provide the Michigan  
48 Legislature with recommendations; and be it further

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50 RESOLVED: That MSMS communicate to members and other physicians in Michigan regarding the  
51 potential and known risks of marijuana use and of any recommendations presented to the Michigan  
52 Legislature should marijuana be legalized by the voters.

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54 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE  
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## **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

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<sup>1</sup> THC tetrahydrocannabinol is the psychoactive ingredient that gives users the “high” and psychotic effects. Cannabidiol is identified as the ingredient that is considered to offer relief from nausea and anxiety. There are at least 480 natural components in the Cannabis sativa plant.