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3 Title: Oppose Legalized Marijuana
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5 Introduced by: Lee P. Begrow, DO, for the Kent County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Donald P. Condit, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee D
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11 House Action: **APPROVE AS AMENDED**
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14 Whereas, a very well-funded “Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol” initiated a petition
15 drive in Michigan to legalize marijuana and turned in 360, 000 signatures on November 11, 2017¹, and
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17 Whereas, the proposed Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act intends to override
18 state and local laws to allow possession and cultivation of marijuana by citizens age 21 and older, and
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20 Whereas, marijuana proponents advocate “hundreds of millions” in tax revenue for schools,
21 roads, government, etc.², and
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23 Whereas, the October 2017 report³ from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking
24 Area found:

- 25 1. “The yearly rate of emergency department visits related to marijuana increased 35 percent
26 after the legalization of recreational marijuana (2011-2012 versus 2013-2015).
- 27 2. The yearly number of marijuana-related hospitalizations increased 72 percent after the
28 legalization of recreational marijuana (2009-2012 versus 2013-2015).
- 29 3. Crime in Denver increased 6 percent from 2014 to 2016 and crime in Colorado increased 11
30 percent from 2013 to 2016.
- 31 4. Youth past month marijuana use increased 12 percent in the three-year average (2013-2015)
32 since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the three-year average prior to
33 legalization (2010-2012).
- 34 5. The latest 2014/2015 results show Colorado youth ranked first in the nation for past month
35 marijuana use, up from fourth in 2011/2012 and fourteenth in 2005/2006.
- 36 6. Colorado youth past month marijuana use for 2014/2015 was 55 percent higher than the
37 national average compared to 39 percent higher in 2011/2012.
- 38 7. Marijuana-related traffic deaths when a driver was positive for marijuana more than doubled
39 from 55 deaths in 2013 to 125 deaths in 2016.
- 40 8. Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 66 percent in the four-year average (2013-2016)
41 since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the four-year average (2009-
42 2012) prior to legalization.
- 43 9. During the same time period, all traffic deaths increased 16 percent.
- 44 10. In 2009, Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths involving drivers testing positive for
45 marijuana represented 9 percent of all traffic deaths. By 2016, that number has more than
46 doubled to 21 percent.
- 47 11. Colorado annual tax revenue from the sale of recreational and medical marijuana was 0.8
48 percent of Colorado’s total statewide budget (FY 2016).
- 49 12. As of June 2017, there were 491 retail marijuana stores in the state of Colorado compared to
50 392 Starbucks and 208 McDonald’s,” and
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52 Whereas, marijuana is directly linked to impaired driving. A meta-analysis published in the
53 peer-reviewed 2012 edition of Epidemiological Reviews⁴ looked at nine studies conducted over the
54 past two decades on marijuana and car-crash risk. It concluded, “drivers who test positive for

55 marijuana or self-report using marijuana are more than twice as likely as other drivers to be involved
56 in motor vehicle crashes,” and

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58 Whereas, drugged-driving fatalities doubled in Washington State following legalization of
59 marijuana⁵; therefore be it

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61 RESOLVED: That MSMS actively oppose legislation and/or ballot initiatives that seek to
62 legalize recreational marijuana in the State of Michigan; and be it further

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64 RESOLVED: That MSMS adopt policy opposing the legalization of recreational marijuana in the
65 State of Michigan.

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68 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

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

¹ <https://www.regulatemi.org>. Accessed 2/20/18

² www.RegulateMi.org

³ <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/FINAL%202017%20Legalization%20of%20Marijuana%20in%20Colorado%20The%20Impact.pdf>. Accessed 2/20/18

⁴ <https://learnaboutsam.org>. Accessed 2/20/18

⁵ Wall Street Journal. Jan 6-7, 2018. A10.).