

Resolution 19-204 (Referred to Reference Committee B)

PREAMBLE

Subject: Recreational Marijuana

Introduced By: Kenneth Certa MD

Author: Marina Goldman MD

County/Specialty Affiliation of Author: Psychiatry

Endorsed by: Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society

WHEREAS

Whereas, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) has developed material for training and education purposes concerning cannabis, and has given PAMED permission to use this resource for its members; and

Whereas, the AAAP cannabis policy lists concerns about the use of cannabis as follows:

1. Cannabis can be addictive
2. Cannabis can cause transient psychosis
3. Cannabis can cause and/or worsen psychiatric symptoms
4. The developing brain (under the age of 25) is especially vulnerable to the effects of cannabis on cognitive performance and increasing the risk for later development of mood and substance use disorders
5. There is currently insufficient evidence for the use of medical cannabis to treat any psychiatric disorder
6. Blood levels of THC and its metabolites are not reliable for roadside testing of driver safety; and

Whereas, the legalization of marijuana for recreational use has become a nationwide issue; and

Whereas, bills have been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature to legalize recreational marijuana; and

Whereas, there are insufficient studies regarding the safety of the use of recreational marijuana; and

Whereas, any expansion of marijuana use should include strategic public awareness campaigns and packaging alerts about potential harms for use, especially heavy or daily use, or use of high potency products, such as risks of addiction, psychosis (particularly of edibles) and worsening of mood and anxiety symptoms; and

Whereas, targeted campaigns to prevent marijuana use during pregnancy and breastfeeding are warranted given the increasing prevalence of cannabis use among pregnant women; therefore be it

Resolved

Resolved, that PAMED oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana/cannabis in Pennsylvania; and

Resolved, that PAMED coordinate with appropriate medical specialty partners to educate members about the effects of marijuana/cannabis, and

Resolved, that PAMED coordinate with appropriate medical specialty society partners to educate members on the care of patients who are currently in the state's medical marijuana program.

CONCLUSION

Fiscal Note: 5000

Relevance to Strategic Plan Improve the health of our communities and serve our members

I am agreeing that I compared the proposed resolution to existing policy in PAMED's Policy Compendium and verified that PAMED does not already have policy on this issue.

VerifiedPolicy

References:

<https://www.aaap.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MJ-policy-FINAL.pdf>

Name Kenneth Certa