

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

PRIMARY SPONSOR: MATFORCE

WHEREAS we are committed to the success and positive future of our youth; and

WHEREAS marijuana, like cigarettes, is addictive;ⁱ and

WHEREAS teen recent use of marijuana has been on the rise in Arizona since 2007;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement;ⁱⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS teens who smoke marijuana regularly can see an 8 point drop in IQ by the time they reach 38 putting a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the IQ range;^{iv} and

WHEREAS marijuana use can lead to poorer academic performance in high school and enrollment gaps in college;^v and

WHEREAS teens who use marijuana heavily are more likely to develop mental illness such as schizophrenia;^{vi} and

WHEREAS marijuana use reduces inhibitions and can lead to risky behaviors, distorted perception, impaired coordination, and can cause difficulty with thinking, problem-solving and difficulty with learning and memory;^{vii} and

WHEREAS, according to the 2014 Arizona Youth Survey,^{viii}

- Marijuana is the most commonly abused illegal substance by youth with 22.9% of 12th grade students in Arizona reporting regular use of the substance.
- The perception of marijuana's risks by Arizona's youth is decreasing with 67% of youth seeing no harm in trying marijuana.

WHEREAS, if marijuana were legalized an additional 32,000 high school students in Arizona would be more likely to try marijuana.^{ix}

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose the legalization of marijuana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support public education on the harms of marijuana, and proven prevention and interventions such as community-based drug prevention efforts, drug treatment courts, offender re-entry programs and probation reform; and further support making drug treatment available to all who need it.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 201__.

By: _____

REFERENCES AND SOURCES:

- ⁱ “Research Report Series: Marijuana.” National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012. For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana.” National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, January 2014. Available at: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- ⁱⁱ Arizona Youth Survey, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2014.
- ⁱⁱⁱ “Research Report Series: Marijuana.” National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, July 2012. For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana.” National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014. Available at: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- ^{iv} Meier, Madeline H.; Caspi, Avshalom, *et. al.*, “Persistent Cannabis Users Show Neuropsychological Decline From Childhood to Midlife,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 109 no. 40; October 2, 2012.
- Calkins, Kathryn, “Early Onset, Regular Cannabis Use Is Linked to IQ Decline,” National Institute on Drug Abuse, August 13, 2013. Accompanying video presentation by Dr. Madeline Meier, located at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJXnxHYapbE&feature=youtu_gdata.
- “Marijuana’s Lasting Effects on the Brain.” National Institute on Drug Abuse, March 2013.
- “Heavy marijuana users have abnormal brain structure and poor memory.” *Science Codex*, December 6, 2013.
- ^v Arizona Youth Survey, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2014.
- “Two New Studies Conclude Marijuana Use Connected to College Failure.” Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, March 28, 2013.
- ^{vi} “Is there a link between marijuana use and mental illness?” National Institute on Drug Abuse, July 2012.
- MacDonald, Ann, “Teens who smoke pot at risk for later schizophrenia, psychosis,” *Harvard Health*, March 7, 2011.
- Bergland, Christopher, “Heavy Marijuana Use Alters Teenage Brain Structure,” *Psychology Today*, December 16, 2013.
- ^{vii} “Research Report Series: Marijuana.” National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, July 2012. For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana.” National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, January 2014. Available at: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- ^{viii} Arizona Youth Survey, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2014.
- ^{ix} This prediction by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is an extrapolation based on the data included in the “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report.” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.