

1 **RESOLUTION #22-05**

2 **ENTITLED:** IAFP Policy on Marijuana

3 **SUBMITTED BY:** Richard Feldman, MD, FAAFP

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5 Whereas, although not completely harmless, marijuana has been demonstrated to have various
6 medical benefits; and

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8 Whereas, while not condoning adolescent use, most negative cognitive and physical effects of
9 marijuana that may occur are reversible; and

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11 Whereas, acceptance of marijuana for recreational and medical use is progressively gaining
12 acceptance by policymakers, the medical community, and the public both nationally and in Indiana; and

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14 Whereas, more than half of U.S. adults admit to at least trying marijuana including notable politicians;
15 and

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17 Whereas, a 2018 Ball State University survey showed that only 16 percent of Hoosiers felt that
18 marijuana should remain illegal; and

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20 Whereas, a more recent poll found 79 percent of Hoosiers support medical marijuana legalization and
21 65 percent support legalized medical and recreational use; and

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23 Whereas, nationally, a Pew poll found that 68 percent of Americans believe that cannabis should be
24 legalized with 91 percent saying that it should be legal for either medical or recreational use with only 8
25 percent believing it should be totally illegal; and

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27 Whereas, in another study nearly 70 percent of physicians believed that medical marijuana should be
28 available, and over half believed it should be legalized; and

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30 Whereas, the younger the generation surveyed, the approval of legalization progressively increases,
31 foretelling what the future holds - just like ending Prohibition, total legalization with regulation is
32 inevitable; and

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34 Whereas, medical cannabis is legal in thirty-six states and recreational use in 18 states and
35 Washington, D.C. ; and

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37 Whereas, the surrounding states of Illinois and Michigan have legalized marijuana, and Ohio has
38 legalized medical marijuana. Additionally, three states where marijuana remains illegal have
39 decriminalized possession for personal use; and

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41 Whereas, there are multiple widely ranging Congressional bills pending in Congress to change federal
42 law from both political parties; and

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44 Whereas, the Indiana Democratic Party now officially endorses recreational and medicinal marijuana
45 legalization; and

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47 Whereas, the issue for legalization and decriminalization of marijuana is even gaining ground in the
48 conservative Republican-dominated Indiana legislature; and

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50 Whereas, these legislative measures to modernize marijuana public policy provide a more rational and
51 equitable criminal justice response, economic benefits through business development and cannabis

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1 taxation, and constituent availability to marijuana's therapeutic benefits;

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3 Whereas, marijuana isn't a hard drug like heroin, cocaine or methamphetamine. It's not a narcotic and
4 is generally safer than alcohol and tobacco; it should be legally treated accordingly; and

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6 Whereas, there is no evidence that marijuana is a gateway drug any more than alcohol can be
7 considered so; and

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9 Whereas, the federal designation of cannabis as a Schedule I controlled substance (like heroin) is
10 indefensible and has been a roadblock to conducting medical studies on marijuana's effects; and

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12 Whereas, from a broad public health perspective, marijuana-related convictions with their resulting
13 marginalization and negative consequences are not justified from either a moral or cost-to-society
14 standpoint; and

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16 Whereas, decriminalization has not resulted in increased use and is supported by multiple medical
17 professional societies including the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP); and

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19 Whereas, just like alcohol with its untoward aspects, regulated legalization of marijuana is what the
20 public (our patients,) desires; therefore, be it

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22 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians supports legalization of strictly regulated
23 medical marijuana; and be it further,

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25 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of family Physicians supports the legalization of strictly
26 regulated recreational marijuana use for adults 21 years of age and older.