

# Kentucky Sheriffs' Association

P.O. Box 524, Covington, KY 41012-0524

Sheriff Troy Young  
Anderson County  
502-839-4021

Sheriff Jerry Wagner (Ret.)  
KSA Executive Director  
606-782-0592

## KENTUCKY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION Resolution 14-001

### Kentucky Sheriffs Association Resolution Opposing the Legalization of the Use, Possession, Cultivation, Delivery and Sale of Marijuana.

**WHEREAS**, marijuana is a Schedule I drug under the controlled Substances Act, is defined as having a high potential for abuse and has no accepted medical use in the U.S.; and<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the American Medical Association, National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society have rejected smoked marijuana as medicine;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, marijuana should be subject to the same research, evaluation, analysis, and study as any other potential medicine, under the standards of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and

**WHEREAS**, recent analysis from the *National Institute on Drug Abuse* reveals the potency of marijuana has reached the highest level since scientific analysis of the drug began, with THC amounts rising from 4% in 1980s to 15% in 2012; and<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the higher potency of today's marijuana may be contributing to the substantial increase in the number of teenagers and adults in treatment for marijuana dependence; and<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Drug Schedules. (<http://www.justice.gov/dea/druginfo/ds.shtml>)

<sup>2</sup> What Florida Should Know. UnMaskingMarijuana.org pamphlet

<sup>3</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse. Drug Facts: Marijuana. Revised December 2012. (<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>)

<sup>4</sup> The Partnership at Drugfree.org, New Report Finds Highest-Ever Levels of THC in U.S. Marijuana. (<http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/drugs/new-report-finds-highest-ever>) citing DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services. Administration Office of Applied Studies. Results from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings (<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/2knsduh/2k6result.pdf>)

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**WHEREAS**, marijuana is a gateway drug and according to the *RAND Drug Policy Research Center*, there is a high incidence of progression from the use of marijuana to the use of heroin and cocaine, with supporting studies indicating the younger an individual is when first using marijuana, the more they are to end up using cocaine and heroin; and<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Sheriffs believe the effort to legalize marijuana is contrary to the interests of the public health, safety, and welfare, and desires to preserve the rights of citizens to live and work in a community where drug abuse is not accepted and citizens are not subjected to the adverse effects of drug abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the dangers of illegal drugs, such as marijuana, and the threat to public safety caused by their use in terms of highway safety, criminal activity and domestic violence are well documented; and

**WHEREAS**, legalization of marijuana will most assuredly increase drug use and health care costs inasmuch as it is an addictive drug that poses significant health consequences to its users, while recent studies have linked marijuana use to birth defects, respiratory system damage, cancer, mental illness, violence, infertility, and immune system damage; and<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, legalizing marijuana would potentially increase black market sales of the drug by cartels that do not want to operate within a regulatory system because of other illegal activities in which they are involved; and<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, black market sales would be concentrated on our nation's youth to which marijuana would still be illegal under proposed state initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, other states who have legalized medical marijuana have seen an increase of youth possessing marijuana after the regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Testimony on SB 1014 relating to Marijuana Decriminalization by Calvin Fay, Executive Director, Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S). Submitted March 1, 2011.  
(<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/JUDdata/Tmy/2011SB-01014-R000314-%20Calvina%20Fay.%20Executive%20Director.%20Save%20Our%20Society%20From%20Drugs-TMY.PDF>) citing RAND Drug Policy Research Center. *Altered State? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets* ([http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/occasional\\_papers/2010RAND\\_OP315.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/occasional_papers/2010RAND_OP315.pdf)).

<sup>6</sup> Drug Free Schools Coalition of New York. *The Facts About "Medical" Marijuana*. Pages 9-13  
([http://www.wycopartnersforprevention.org/uploads/FACTSABOUTMEDICAL\\_MARIJUANA.pdf](http://www.wycopartnersforprevention.org/uploads/FACTSABOUTMEDICAL_MARIJUANA.pdf))

<sup>7</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy. *FACTS AND ANSWERS TO THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MARIJUANA*. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/frequently-asked-questions-and-facts-about-marijuana>)

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**WHEREAS**, business owners lose an estimated \$100 billion per year because of substance abuse, including marijuana, and employees who use drugs are only two thirds as productive as non-users and their use contributes to increased thefts, damaged equipment, increased healthcare costs, higher incidents of accidents, and other unnecessary costs in the workplace; and<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, there are children placed in foster care because of parental marijuana and other substance abuse, sexual assault is frequently facilitated by substance use and domestic violence offenders have substance abuse problems; and<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Institute of Medicine reports that the future of medical marijuana "lies in its individual components" that can be isolated and delivered in a non-smoked fashion; and<sup>11</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Marinol and Cesamet, pills based on THC, marijuana's active intoxicating ingredient, are available at U.S. pharmacies today; and

**WHEREAS**, Sativex, an oral spray extract of marijuana containing mainly equal parts THC and CBD (CBD does not produce intoxication and tends to reduce the intoxicating effects of THC), has already been approved in almost two dozen countries and is in the late stages of FDA approval in the U.S.<sup>12</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, these legally dispensed medications are far safer and carry less risk of abuse than smoked marijuana.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Denver Post: "Pot problems in Colorado schools increase with legalization."  
([http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_24501596/pot-problems-colorado-schools-increase-legalization](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_24501596/pot-problems-colorado-schools-increase-legalization))

<sup>9</sup> Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. Speak to Be Heard: Spreading the Word about Marijuana, A Tool Kit to Combat Marijuana Legalization *citing* Zwerling and Associates. Journal of the American Medical Association. Vol 264; pp. 2639-2643. 1990, and Mathias, R. "Marijuana Impairs Driving Related Skills and Workplace Performance." NIDA Notes Jan/Feb. 1996  
([http://archives.drugabuse.gov/NIDA\\_Notes/NNVol11N1/Marijuana.html](http://archives.drugabuse.gov/NIDA_Notes/NNVol11N1/Marijuana.html)). See also, Federal Occupational Health: Drug Use Awareness – For Managers/Supervisors.  
([http://foh.hhs.gov/whatwedo/eap/Drug\\_Use\\_Awareness\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://foh.hhs.gov/whatwedo/eap/Drug_Use_Awareness_Newsletter.pdf)) and National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance. Substance Abuse Costs for Employers (<http://www.ndwa.org/aboutus.php>)

<sup>10</sup>Us. Department of Health and Human Services. (1999). Blending perspectives and building common ground: A report to Congress on substance abuse and child protection. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/HSP/subabuse99/subabuse.htm>.) See also, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Protecting Children in Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders (page 7) (<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/substanceabuse/substanceabuse.pdf>)

<sup>11</sup> University of Florida, College of Medicine Division of Addiction Medicine Drug Policy Institute. Policy Primer: Marijuana for Medical Purposes: Compassion or Smokescreen?

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the PRESIDENT RODNEY COFFEY,  
SHERIFF OF MENIFEE COUNTY KENTUCKY**

- (1) THAT THE KENTUCKY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS STRONGLY  
OPPOSED TO THE LEGALIZATION OF THE USE, POSSESSION,  
CULTIVATION, DELEVERY, AND SALE OF MARIJUANA.**
- (2) THAT THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UPON  
PASSAGE.**

**THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
The KENTUCKY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION ON THE 27 DAY OF AUGUST 2014, A.D.**

