



2019-10

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OPPOSES THE LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA AND SUPPORTS THE FDA REVIEW OF MARIJUANA FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is concerned with the welfare of citizens and desires to preserve the rights of citizens to live and work in communities where drug abuse is not accepted nor are citizens subjected to the adverse effects of drug abuse, and;

WHEREAS, the Sheriffs of America have extreme compassion for those who are suffering from debilitating illnesses, yet feel an obligation to ensure the attempt to provide relief to some does not endanger all, and;

WHEREAS, the dangers of illegal drugs, including marijuana (also known as cannabis or cannabis sativa), and the threat to public safety caused by their use in terms of highway safety^{i, 2}, criminal activity, and domestic violence, are well-documented, and;

WHEREAS, Sheriffs believe the effort to bypass the drug approval process established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and legalize marijuana and marijuana derived products is contrary to the interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and;

WHEREAS, state decriminalization and regulatory schemes, contrary to their states objectives, have failed to reduce the black-market availability of recreational marijuana and have oftentimes resulted in more organized drug trafficking organizations, and;

WHEREAS, many states are bypassing the rigorous FDA research and approval process for marijuana in favor of legislation and citizen initiatives to create a patchwork of conflicting medicinal marijuana laws, and;

WHEREAS, marijuana is currently listed as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, defined as having a high potential for abuse, and has no scientifically recognized medical benefit in the United Statesⁱⁱ, and;

WHEREAS, federal statutory and regulatory barriers have prevented the thorough research and study on the use of cannabis for the purpose of obtaining definitive and undisputed scientific evidence to determine whether cannabis has a positive medical benefit to its use, and has prevented research leading to the ability to accurately quantify impairment levels of those who consume cannabis; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Sheriffs' Association supports the reclassification of marijuana as a Schedule II drug under the Controlled Substances Act in order to remove those impediments and allow greater research;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association urges the United States Attorney General and Congress to take immediate and additional steps to promote and actively pursue scientific research and rigorous testing to determine any efficacy of cannabis for medical purposes by removing the federal statutory and regulatory barriers that prevent these scientific endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association implores the United States Congress to allocate funding to develop a scientific method to objectively quantify impairment from cannabis and to create a national standard field test capable of detecting high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content.

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association remains opposed to efforts to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes in the United States and opposes the bypassing of the rigors FDA research and approval process for any proposed medical uses of marijuana or its derivatives.

ⁱ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. U.S. Department of Transportation. "Drug Involvement of Fatally Injured Drivers: A Brief Statistical Summary." November 2010. (<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811415.pdf>).

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