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NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OPPOSES EFFORTS TO LEGALIZE MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

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, marijuana is a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, defined as having a high potential for abuse, and has no accepted medical use in the United States¹, and;

WHEREAS, Sheriffs believe the effort to legalize marijuana is contrary to the interests of the public health, safety, and welfare, and;

WHEREAS, the dangers of illegal drugs, including marijuana, and the threat to public safety caused by their use in terms of highway safety,² criminal activity, and domestic violence, are well-documented, and;

WHEREAS, the legalization of marijuana will likely increase drug use and health care costs due to significant health consequences such as respiratory system damage, cancer, mental illness, violence, infertility, and immune system damage, and;

WHEREAS, the legalization of marijuana will do little to weaken the black market as many drug cartels are unwilling to work within a regulatory system for fear of revealing the extent of their other illegal activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association opposes efforts to legalize medical and recreational marijuana in the States and urges Congress and the Administration to allow full enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act, especially as it relates to marijuana.

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

² 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>)