

General Assembly - August 7, 2015 - New Orleans, LA

1 **Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians** 2 2015 General Assembly 3 4 **RESOLUTION NO. 7** 5 6 Medical and Recreational Use of Marijuana 7 8 **Submitted by: LAFP Board of Directors** 9 10 WHEREAS, certain medical illnesses and/or therapeutic treatments cause symptoms and side 11 12 effects that can be very debilitating, and 13 14 WHEREAS, some patients with these medical illnesses and/or undergoing such medical treatments may not respond to existing pharmaceuticals, and 15 16 17 WHEREAS, various studies and anecdotal evidence have shown that the use of marijuana is 18 helpful in alleviating such symptoms or side effects in certain patients, and 19 20 WHEREAS, the use of medical marijuana became legal in the State of Louisiana in 2015, and 21 22 WHEREAS, the legalization and use of recreational marijuana is under discussion in the state of 23 Louisiana and other states, and 24 25 WHEREAS, physicians will need to be able to counsel their patients about the use of medical 26 marijuana, and 27 28 WHEREAS, it is our duty as physicians to provide the best care available to all our patients, now, 29 therefore, be it 30 31 **RESOLVED,** That the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians strongly oppose the recreational 32 use of all medications and drugs of abuse, and be it further 33 34 RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians support the medical use of 35 marijuana for those patients who do not respond to standard existing therapeutic measures. 36 37 **Background Information** 38 Policy of the AAFP 39 40 **Medical Use of** 41 The AAFP recognizes that there is support for the medical use of marijuana but advocates that 42 usage be based on high quality, patient-centered, evidence-based research and advocates for 43 further studies into the use of medical marijuana and related compounds. The AAFP requests 44 that the Food and Drug Administration change marijuana's classification for the purpose of 45 facilitating clinical research. This process should also ensure that funding be available for such 46 research.



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47	The AAFP also recognizes that some states have passed laws approving the medical use of
48	marijuana; the AAFP does not endorse such laws. The AAFP encourages its members to be
49	knowledgeable of the laws of their states and consult with their state medical boards for
50	guidance regarding the use of medical marijuana.

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Recreational Use of

The AAFP opposes the recreational use of marijuana. The AAFP recognizes that several states have passed laws approving limited recreational use of marijuana but advocates for further research into the overall safety and health effects of recreational use as well as the effects of those laws on patient and societal health.

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