

## RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

*PRIMARY SPONSOR: Insert name of your organization/coalition*

WHEREAS we are committed to the success and positive future of our youth; and

WHEREAS marijuana, like cigarettes, is addictive;<sup>i</sup> and

WHEREAS teen recent use of marijuana has been on the rise in Arizona since 2007;<sup>ii</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement;<sup>iii</sup> and

WHEREAS teens who smoke marijuana regularly can see an 8 point drop in IQ by the time they reach 38 putting a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the IQ range;<sup>iv</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana use can lead to poorer academic performance in high school and enrollment gaps in college;<sup>v</sup> and

WHEREAS teens who use marijuana heavily are more likely to develop mental illness such as schizophrenia;<sup>vi</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana use reduces inhibitions and can lead to risky behaviors, distorted perception, impaired coordination, and can cause difficulty with thinking, problem-solving and difficulty with learning and memory;<sup>vii</sup> and

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Arizona Youth Survey,<sup>viii</sup>

- 2012 was the first time in Arizona's history that past 30-day use of marijuana by teens surpassed their use of cigarettes; and
- Marijuana is one of only two substances whose use is on the rise among Arizona teens; and
- The perception of marijuana's risks by Arizona's youth - both users and non-users of marijuana - is decreasing and their use is increasing; and

WHEREAS, if marijuana were legalized an additional 32,000 high school students in Arizona would be more likely to use marijuana.<sup>ix</sup>

WHEREAS we are committed to the health and safety of our citizens; and

WHEREAS marijuana use is associated with additional health risks such as respiratory illness, heightened heart attack risk, and immune system suppression;<sup>x</sup> and

WHEREAS the active ingredient in marijuana is already the second most commonly found substance in the blood of impaired drivers;<sup>xi</sup> and

WHEREAS driving while impaired by marijuana is correlated with an increased likelihood of being at fault in a crash;<sup>xii</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana is the second leading substance for which people seek drug treatment and a driving force behind emergency room visits;<sup>xiii</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana legalization would lead to increased marijuana consumption.<sup>xiv</sup>

WHEREAS we are committed to the economic health and competitiveness of our region; and

WHEREAS marijuana use can affect workplace safety and productivity<sup>xv</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana use leads to higher health and safety costs;<sup>xvi</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana legalization would lead to increased marijuana consumption.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we oppose the legalization of marijuana; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support public education on the harms of marijuana, and proven prevention interventions such as community-based drug prevention efforts, drug treatment courts, offender re-entry programs and probation reform; and further support making drug treatment available to all who need it.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Add signature pages as needed)

## REFERENCES AND SOURCES:

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- <sup>i</sup> “Research Report Series: Marijuana,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.  
For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana”: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:  
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- <sup>ii</sup> “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012; p. 32.  
For quick reference, see “Arizona Youth Survey 2012: Marijuana Data Brief.”
- <sup>iii</sup> “Research Report Series: Marijuana,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.  
For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana”: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:  
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- <sup>iv</sup> Meier, Madeline H.; Caspi, Avshalom, *et. al.*, “Persistent Cannabis Users Show Neuropsychological Decline From Childhood to Midlife,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 109 no. 40; October 2, 2012.  
Calkins, Kathryn, “Early Onset, Regular Cannabis Use Is Linked to IQ Decline,” National Institute on Drug Abuse; August 13, 2013.  
Accompanying video presentation by Dr. Madeline Meier, located at:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJXnxHYapbE&feature=youtube\\_gdata](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJXnxHYapbE&feature=youtube_gdata).
- “Marijuana’s Lasting Effects on the Brain,” National Institute on Drug Abuse; March 2013.  
“Heavy marijuana users have abnormal brain structure and poor memory,” Science Codex; December 6, 2013.
- <sup>v</sup> “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012; p. 58.  
“Two New Studies Conclude Marijuana Use Connected to College Failure,” Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America; March 28, 2013.
- <sup>vi</sup> “Is there a link between marijuana use and mental illness?” National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.  
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- <sup>vii</sup> “Research Report Series: Marijuana,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.

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For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana”: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:  
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.

viii “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.

For quick reference, see “Arizona Youth Survey 2012: Marijuana Data Brief.”

ix This prediction by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is an extrapolation based on the date included in the “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.

x “Research Report Series: Marijuana,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.

For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana”: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:  
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.

“How cannabis suppresses immune functions: cannabis compounds found to trigger unique immune cells which promote cancer growth,” Wiley-Blackwell, *ScienceDaily*; November 26, 2010.

xi “Drug Facts: Drugged Driving,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; October 2013.

xii “Drug Facts: Drugged Driving,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; October 2013.”

xiii “The Public Health Consequences of Marijuana Legalization,” White House Fact Sheet.

xiv Kilmer, Beau, *et al.*, “Altered States? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets,” RAND Corp.; 2010.

xv “Marijuana in the Workplace,” University of Washington, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute; August, 2013.

xvi “The Public Health Consequences of Marijuana Legalization,” White House Fact Sheet.