

VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Opposing a System of Commercialized Sales of Recreational Marijuana

As adopted at the VMS Annual Meeting on October 27, 2018

(This replaces the 2017 Legalizing Non-Medical Marijuana in Vermont policy, which was rescinded in 2018.)

RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society is opposed to the creation of any system for retail sales of marijuana over and above what already exists for the sale of medical marijuana because of the negative health effects on the Vermont population, especially youth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VMS reaffirms its opposition to the legalization of non-medical marijuana; and be it further

RESOLVED, the VMS collaborate with the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter and the Agency of Human Services to educate youth to counter the climate that portrays marijuana as a benign drug; considers models for preventing risky behaviors among adolescents such as the Icelandic Model and/or the Third Space Model; and support education directed toward parents and adults on the negative health impact of marijuana on parenting ability; and be it further

RESOLVED, that VMS urge the Governor of the State of Vermont and Vermont General Assembly, to conduct appropriate research to determine actual effects and costs of legalization and commercial sales of non-medical marijuana to the entire system, including but not limited to – increased challenges recruiting health professionals, increased Medicaid costs, increased ER utilization, increased hospitalization rates, increased THC positive infants, increased traffic fatalities, workforce costs, economic productivity loss to existing industry, environmental impact costs, costs to the law enforcement system, and education costs; and be it further

RESOLVED, VMS urge the Governor of the State of Vermont and Vermont General Assembly, to oppose expanded legalization and commercial sales of marijuana and to determine and meet appropriate benchmarks should commercialization be considered, including, but not limited to:

- Increasing the percentage of Vermont adolescents who perceive marijuana as harmful;
- Increasing substance use disorder treatment; and
- Decreasing the utilization of emergency rooms for holding areas for psychiatric admissions