

Resolution #1

The National Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge proposes the following resolution.

WHEREAS: Under the Controlled Substances Act, marijuana is a Schedule 1 drug and is classified as such because of the high potential for abuse and because there is no accepted medical use for marijuana that is recognized by the Federal government;

WHEREAS: In 1998, the Grand Lodge was among the first national organizations to oppose State and local efforts to legalize this dangerous drug;

WHEREAS: Despite consistent and vigorous opposition from the Grand Lodge as well as other law enforcement, public safety and public health organizations, certain States have legalized the use, sale, production and possession of marijuana for recreational and purported medicinal reasons which is at variance with existing Federal law;

WHEREAS: Public safety is threatened by the growing use of marijuana nationwide with the greatest negative impact in States that no longer comport with existing Federal law;

WHEREAS: Studies have shown that persons who use Marijuana at age 17 or younger are four times more likely to become addicted to opioids, contributing to the national epidemic of opioid-related deaths that now claim more lives per year than automobile crashes and firearms combined;

WHEREAS: Studies show that teens who use marijuana at least once per month are 13 times more likely to use another drug like cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamine;

WHEREAS: A joint study conducted by the University of Colorado, John Hopkins University and Harvard Medical School about the impact of legalization in Colorado determined the following:

- Evidence of a persistent black market for marijuana which may increase the presence of Mexican drug cartels which are bringing in other drugs like heroin;
- Some cartels have stopped shipping marijuana into Colorado, but now control growing operations and export it to other markets;
- Higher rates of traffic fatalities while driving under the influence of marijuana;
- Increase in marijuana-related poisonings and hospital visits;
- No reduction in crime or significant increase in tax revenues;
- Use of marijuana by children less than 17 years of age is rising faster than the national average and arrests of juveniles for marijuana-related offenses are up 5%;
- There are more marijuana businesses in Colorado than McDonald's and Starbucks combined;
- Noncompliance with tax law on marijuana businesses is more than 30%;
- Homelessness in Colorado has increased by 50% from indigent newcomers seeking easy access to the drug;

- Marijuana-related fatalities increased to a high of 115 in 2015; and
- Drug and narcotics-related crimes in Colorado have increased an average of 11% per year since legalization and marijuana-related offenses have increased 34% in public schools.

WHEREAS: Marijuana, like any illegal drug, is intrinsically linked to the violence of drug trafficking, and is not “harmless”;

WHEREAS: Driving under the influence of marijuana is a growing public safety issue and there is no standard or reliable analysis available to law enforcement officers to identify the impairment of a driver who has used marijuana;

WHEREAS: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s 2013-2014 study of weekend nighttime drivers showed that 12.6% of drivers tested positive for THC, an increase of 48% from that number in 2007;

WHEREAS: There have multiple requests made to the Drug Enforcement Administration to reschedule marijuana and all have been rejected; and

WHEREAS: There have been multiple bills introduced in Congress that would amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to marijuana and none have received consideration, thanks in part to the opposition of the Grand Lodge and other public safety and public health groups;

WHEREAS: There may be medical conditions for which the National Institute of Health determines that the prescribed use of marijuana or its components may provide relief to patients suffering from such conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT; The delegates here assembled recognize the fact that marijuana is a dangerous drug that poses a real threat to public safety and public health and further that the Grand Lodge is directed to continue its ongoing opposition to legalization efforts at the State or local level and to support efforts by the Federal government to combat marijuana abuse under existing Federal law.

Additionally, this opposition may not apply to legislation for the prescribed medical use of marijuana in situations where there is irrefutable medical evidence supported by the National Institute of Health for such use and that such use is highly regulated and properly supervised.

s/ Patrick Yoes
National Secretary
Fraternal Order of Police