

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Genesee County Board of Health Passes Resolution Opposing Legalization of Marijuana for General Use

Flint, Michigan

June 12, 2018

On June 6, 2018 the Genesee County Board of Health passed a resolution opposing the legalization of marijuana for general use in Genesee County communities.

This resolution recognizes that there is a proposal to legalize the general use of marijuana being placed on the November ballot. The resolution focuses on the health and societal risks associated with the proposed legalization of marijuana for general use.

Kay Doerr, Chairperson for the Genesee County Board of Health notes the importance of this resolution: “I’m especially concerned about the impact legalization of recreational marijuana will have on youth use rates. Our young people deserve healthy environments where they are not exposed and introduced to substance use.”

The Genesee County Prevention Coalition (GCPC) would like to thank the Genesee County Board of Health on this important and impactful step in passing this resolution in working to protect the health of the citizens of Genesee County.

The GCPC works within the community to develop new and effective ways to prevent and reduce mental health and substance use disorders. The GCPC believes in a collective and individual responsibility to ensure healthy, safe and productive lives for all Genesee County residents through innovative strategies and community partnerships.

The Genesee County Prevention Coalition is working with Healthy and Productive Michigan and Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) to educate the citizens of Genesee County on the dangers of consumption of marijuana for general use.

For more information please visit: www.theGCPC.org, www.learnaboutSAM.org and www.healthyandproductiveMI.org.

Contact:

The Genesee County Prevention Coalition

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RESOLUTION

Genesee County Board of Health

Genesee County, Michigan

Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana for General Use in Genesee County Communities

(This resolution does not relate to the use of marijuana approved for medical purposes in compliance with current state law)

Whereas, proposals to legalize the general use of marijuana are being placed on the ballot across Michigan; and

Whereas, general marijuana use and possession is not permitted by federal and state law; and

Whereas, *The National Institute on Drug Abuse* reports that 1 in 6 teens that use marijuana become addicted to its use; and Marijuana is now the number one reason kids enter treatment for substance abuse—more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, ecstasy, and other drugs combinedⁱ; and

Whereas, *Monitoring the Future, 2017* reports that marijuana use increased to 24% among adolescents in 8th, 10th and 12th grades combined; and

Whereas, *Healthy and Productive Michigan* reports, marijuana-impaired driver related fatalities have more than doubled from 2012 to 2016, rising from 78 fatalities in 2012 to 159 fatalities in 2016; and

Whereas, increased consumption of Marijuana would likely lead to higher public health and financial costs for society. Addictive substances like alcohol and tobacco already result in much higher social costs than the revenue they generate. The cost to society of alcohol alone is estimated to be more than 15 times the revenue gained by their taxationⁱⁱ; and

Whereas, *Smart Approaches to Marijuana* reports, employees who tested positive for marijuana were 85% more likely to have had a workplace injury compared to the control group who tested negative; and

Whereas, it is not possible to foresee and mitigate all the associated risks and impact to our communities through the legalization of marijuana for general use; and

Wherefore Be It Resolved, the Genesee County Board of Health is opposed to the legalization of marijuana for general use; and

Be It Further Resolved, the Genesee County Board of Health encourages other organizations to oppose the legalization of marijuana for general use.

Organization Name: Genesee County Board of Health **Number of Members:** 5

Contact Person (Print): Mrs. Kay Doerr

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Authorized Signature:  **Date:** 6-6-18

Please Print Name: Kay Doerr **Title:** Chairperson

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Center for Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through October 15, 2012.

ⁱⁱ Ellen E. Bouchery, Henrick J. Harwood, Jeffrey J. Sacks, Carol J. Simon, Robert D. Brewer. *Economic Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption in the U.S., 2006*. American Journal of Preventive Medicine - November 2011 (Vol. 41, Issue 5, Pages 516-524, DOI: 10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.045)