

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**Resolution 10.2018-07  
(A-19)**

Introduced by: Katherine M. Tynus, M.D., ISMS Member  
Subject: Legalization of Marijuana for Recreational Use  
Referred to: Council on Medical Service

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1           Whereas, ISMS adopted policy at its spring 2018 House of Delegates meeting,  
2           opposing the legalization of the use of recreational marijuana, or marijuana for non-  
3           medical purposes (Resolution C331 (A-18)); and  
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5           Whereas, ISMS, at its spring 2018 House of Delegates meeting also referred to  
6           the Board for decision a resolution that empowered ISMS to have “input into any  
7           processes of establishing regulation of recreational marijuana;” and  
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9           Whereas, subsequent to the ISMS 2018 House of Delegates meeting, two global  
10          policy institutes have issued reports that are relevant to marijuana public policy. The  
11          International Drug Policy Consortium released “Taking Stock: A Decade of Drug  
12          Policy,” which states that data from the last 10 years show that the goals of eliminating  
13          or reducing the cultivation, production, trafficking and use of controlled substances have  
14          not been achieved, and in many cases have resulted in counter-productive policies that  
15          have caused harm to marginalized populations. Additionally, the Global Commission  
16          on Drug Policy issued its report, “Regulation-The Responsible Control of Drugs,” which  
17          advocates for the use of legalization and regulation as a means of improving the control  
18          of drugs worldwide, and provides a framework for doing so; and  
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20          Whereas, there is strong public and political support for the legalization and  
21          regulation of marijuana in Illinois, such that there is a strong likelihood that such  
22          legislation may pass the General Assembly in 2019 or soon thereafter; and  
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24          Whereas, having stated policy that opposes the legalization of marijuana inhibits  
25          the ability of ISMS representatives from having meaningful input into the crafting of  
26          such legislation, including the pursuit of public health safeguards and other provisions  
27          limiting the commercialization of marijuana; and

1           Whereas, looking forward, ISMS should take into account the data and  
2 conclusions drawn in the International Drug Policy Consortium’s 2018 report: “Taking  
3 Stock: A Decade of Drug Policy” and The Global Commission on Drug Policy’s 2018  
4 report, “Regulation-The Responsible Control of Drugs”; therefore, be it

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6           RESOLVED, that ISMS remain neutral on legislation seeking to legalize  
7 recreational marijuana in Illinois; and be it further

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9           RESOLVED, that the ISMS adopt policy that all relevant medical stakeholders,  
10 including ISMS, be provided the opportunity for input into any rulemaking or other  
11 processes establishing regulation of recreational marijuana.

**References:**

*About Six-in-Ten Americans Support Marijuana Legalization*

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/10/08/americans-support-marijuana-legalization/>

*Taking stock: A Decade of Drug Policy - A Civil Society Shadow Report*

<https://idpc.net/publications/2018/10/taking-stock-a-decade-of-drug-policy-a-civil-society-shadow-report>, accessed on 10/29/18

*Regulation: The Responsible Control of Drugs*

<http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/reports/regulation-the-responsible-control-of-drugs/>

**Fiscal Note:**

N/A

**Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:**

ISMS opposes legalization of the use of recreational marijuana, or marijuana for non-medical purposes. (HOD 2018)

Board of Trustees approved causing the introduction of legislation that requires marijuana-dispensing entities to provide to individuals a detailed explanation of medical cannabis’ adverse effects and risks, and requires these entities to report certain information on each dispensing incident to the Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program. (BOT 2016-JAN)

Board of Trustees approved that ISMS negotiate with the various stakeholders and offer amendments that meet the intent of Resolution B209 (A-15), Marijuana Dispensing Organization Responsibilities. (BOT 2016-APR)

ISMS supports the following policies related to medical marijuana dispensing organizations: 1. As part of the licensing requirements for marijuana dispensing entities, a detailed explanation of cannabis' adverse effects and risks should be disseminated to each individual at the time of dispensing. 2. Such patient education material should include: A) Updated information about the purported effectiveness of various forms and methods of medical cannabis administration; B) Updated information about the purported effectiveness of strains of medical cannabis on specific conditions; C) Current educational information issued by IDPH about the health risks associated with the use or abuse of cannabis; D) Whether possession of cannabis is illegal under federal law; E) Information about possible adverse effects; F) Prohibition on smoking medical cannabis in public places; and G) Any other appropriate patient education or support materials (68 Ill. Adm. Code 1290.425). 3. Receipt of such patient education information should be individually documented by the dispensing organization. 4. The written information should be standardized and approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). (HOD 2015)

ISMS supports and encourages the education of physicians regarding current, evidence-based therapeutic use of cannabinoids and expanded efforts at all levels of medical training and practice in education about addiction, and supports continued research in controlled investigational trials on the therapeutic efficacy of cannabinoids, including methods of administration and addictive potential. (HOD 2006; BOT 2006-OCT; Last BOT Review 2011)

ISMS does not endorse the legalization of the possession or use of marijuana. (HOD 1976; Last BOT Review 2011)