

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

2 Legalizing Non-Medical Marijuana in Vermont

3 *As adopted at the VMS Annual Meeting on November 4, 2017*
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6 **RESOLVED**, that the VMS reaffirms its opposition to the legalization of non-medical
7 marijuana; and be it further
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9 **RESOLVED**, the VMS collaborate with the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont
10 Chapter and the Agency of Human Services to educate youth to counter the climate that
11 portrays marijuana as a benign drug and support education directed toward parents and
12 adults on the negative health impact of marijuana on parenting ability, the developing
13 fetus and the dangers of second hand smoke; and be it further
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15 **RESOLVED**, that VMS urge the Governor of the State of Vermont and Vermont
16 General Assembly, to conduct appropriate research to determine actual effects and costs
17 of legalization of non-medical marijuana to the entire system, including but not limited
18 to – increased challenges recruiting health professionals, increased Medicaid costs,
19 increased ER utilization, increased hospitalization rates, increased THC positive infants,
20 increased traffic fatalities, workforce costs, economic productivity loss to existing
21 industry, environmental impact costs, costs to the law enforcement system, and
22 education costs; and be it further

23 **RESOLVED**, that VMS urge the Governor of the State of Vermont and Vermont
24 General Assembly to conduct appropriate research to determine the impact of
25 decriminalization of marijuana in Vermont and whether it has led to increased marijuana
26 use or resulting harm in Vermont, and whether it has met criminal or civil justice goals
27 by measuring the following benchmarks: Incidence of marijuana related harm to
28 children; Incidence of marijuana associated Emergency Room visits; Incidence of
29 marijuana associated highway fatalities; and Incidence of marijuana associated mental
30 illness (including psychosis and PTSD); and be it further

31 **RESOLVED**, that VMS urge the Governor of the State of Vermont and Vermont
32 General Assembly, to oppose legalization of marijuana and to determine and meet
33 appropriate benchmarks including, but not limited to:

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- 35 • Increasing the percentage of Vermont adolescents who perceive marijuana as
36 harmful;
 - 37 • Increasing substance abuse treatment facilities, such that wait lists for programs
38 are no longer a concern; and
 - 39 • Decreasing the utilization of emergency rooms for holding areas for psychiatric
admissions