

## RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

*PRIMARY SPONSOR: MATFORCE, the Yavapai County Substance Abuse Coalition*

WHEREAS we are committed to the success and positive future of our youth; and

Whereas marijuana, like cigarettes, is addictive;<sup>i</sup> and

WHEREAS teen use of marijuana has been on the rise in Arizona since 2007;<sup>ii</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement;<sup>iii</sup> and

WHEREAS teens who smoke marijuana regularly can see an 8 point drop in IQ by the time they reach 38 putting a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the IQ range;<sup>iv</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana use can lead to high school dropout and failure in college;<sup>v</sup> and

WHEREAS teens who use marijuana heavily are more likely to develop mental illness such as schizophrenia;<sup>vi</sup> and

WHEREAS marijuana use reduces inhibitions and can lead to risky behaviors, distorted perception, impaired coordination, and can cause difficulty with thinking, problem-solving and difficulty with learning and memory;<sup>vii</sup> and

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Arizona Youth Survey,<sup>viii</sup>

- 2012 was the first time in Arizona's history that past 30-day use of marijuana by teens surpassed their use of cigarettes; and
- Arizona's teens are getting younger for first use of marijuana; and
- The perception of marijuana's risks by Arizona's youth, both users and non-users of marijuana, is decreasing and their use is increasing; and

WHEREAS, if marijuana were legalized an additional 32,000 high school students in Arizona would be more likely to use marijuana.<sup>ix</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we oppose the legalization of marijuana; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support public education on the harms of marijuana, and proven prevention interventions such as community-based drug prevention efforts, drug treatment courts, offender re-entry programs and probation reform; and further support making drug treatment available to all who need it.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Add signature pages as needed)

## REFERENCES AND SOURCES:

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- <sup>i</sup> National Survey on Drug Use and Health, SAMHSA 2011; NIDA: Is Marijuana Addictive? <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- <sup>ii</sup> Arizona Youth Survey 2012.
- <sup>iii</sup> National Institute of Drug Abuse. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>. How Does Marijuana Affect the Brain?
- <sup>iv</sup> Persistent Cannabis Users Show Neuropsychological Decline From Childhood to Midlife," Madeline H. Meier, Avshalom Caspi, et al. Published October 2, 2012 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 109 no. 40. <http://today.duke.edu/2012/08/potiq>; See also National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). <http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2013/08/early-onset-regular-cannabis-use-linked-to-iq-decline>. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/directors-page/messages-director/2012/09/marijuanas-lasting-effects-brain>; Video with Dr. Meier explaining study: [http://www.drugabuse.gov/videos/nida-notes-researchers-speak-dr-madeline-meier-marijuana-iq?utm\\_source=Updates&utm\\_medium=ConstantContact&utm\\_content=08.28.2013&utm\\_campaign=NIDANotes](http://www.drugabuse.gov/videos/nida-notes-researchers-speak-dr-madeline-meier-marijuana-iq?utm_source=Updates&utm_medium=ConstantContact&utm_content=08.28.2013&utm_campaign=NIDANotes); [http://www.sciencecodex.com/heavy\\_marijuana\\_users\\_have\\_abnormal\\_brain\\_structure\\_and\\_poor\\_memory-124881](http://www.sciencecodex.com/heavy_marijuana_users_have_abnormal_brain_structure_and_poor_memory-124881);
- <sup>v</sup> <http://www.cadca.org/resources/detail/two-new-studies-conclude-marijuana-use-connected-college-failure>.
- <sup>vi</sup> <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-abuse/there-link-between-marijuana-use-mental-illness>; <http://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/teens-who-smoke-pot-at-risk-for-later-schizophrenia-psychosis-201103071676>; <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-athletes-way/201312/heavy-marijuana-use-alters-teenage-brain-structure>.
- <sup>vii</sup> National Institute of Drug Abuse, <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>. How Does Marijuana Affect the Brain?
- <sup>viii</sup> [www.azcjc.gov](http://www.azcjc.gov) › Home › Statistical Analysis Center.
- <sup>ix</sup> The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS): Teens and Parents, 2012; ACJC Arizona Youth Survey, 2012.