

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 10-19

INTRODUCED BY: Medical Cannabis Task Force

SUBJECT: Recreational Cannabis Age Limit

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Whereas, on August 29, 2019, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an Advisory: *Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain* advising that marijuana should not be used by adolescents or by pregnant women; and

Whereas, the Advisory noted that marijuana use is commonly used by adolescents, second only to alcohol. In 2017, approximately 9.2 million youth aged 12 to 25 reported marijuana use in the past month and 29% more young adults aged 18-25 started using marijuana; and

Whereas, the Advisory opined that high school students' perception of the harm from regular marijuana use has been steadily declining over the last decade, which could be linked to the increase in the number of states that have legalized adult use of marijuana for medicinal or recreational purposes; and

Whereas, as the Surgeon General reports, frequent marijuana use by adolescents has been associated with impaired memory, learning, and decision making; can increase rates of school absences and drop-outs; and can increase the rate of suicide attempts and early onset of psychotic disorders; and

Whereas, research has found that the human brain continues to develop from before birth into the mid-20s and is vulnerable to the effects of addictive substances; and therefore be it

Resolved, that if Maryland decides to legalize recreational marijuana, MedChi will support efforts to limit the age of consent for the purchase and use of it to 25 years of age or older.

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Resolution 10-19 was referred to the Board of Trustees by the House of Delegates at its meeting on November 2, 2019.