

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 1-19

INTRODUCED BY: Montgomery County Medical Society

SUBJECT: Study Regarding Current Maryland Medical Cannabis Regulations and
Risks to Patients

Whereas, the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission requirements for issuing a written certification for medical cannabis require a bona fide physician-patient relationship, in which the physician reviews the patient's relevant medical records, completes and in-person assessment of the patient's medical history and current medical condition, creates and maintains medically standardized records; and

Whereas, the requirement for certification of medical cannabis in Maryland necessitates certification of a severe medical condition, for which other treatments have proven ineffective; and

Whereas, not all certifiers of medical cannabis in Maryland have completed a medical school education and residency; and

Whereas, the current Maryland cannabis certification process requires a provider to follow up no more than once every 12 months for the severe medical condition for which cannabis was certified; and

Whereas, the potential side effects of medical cannabis include increased risk of heart attack, cannabis dependency, mood changes, psychiatric conditions such as schizophrenia, neurological symptoms, chronic bronchitis, and neurological injuries to children born to parents who use cannabis; and

Whereas, a certifying provider or dispensary employee may not be able to properly diagnose such conditions; and

Whereas, knowledge of the benefits and risks of medical cannabis is an ongoing area of research (e.g., *The Journal of Addiction Medicine* in February, 2019 published a paper indicating there is little support for the claim that legalizing medical marijuana reduced opioid overdose deaths by offering a less risky method of pain management); and

Whereas, in Maryland, the certifier and dispensary are currently under no obligation to inform the patient's primary care provider that the patient has been certified for and/or dispensed medical cannabis; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi study the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission's current practitioner requirements for issuing certifications for cannabis and associated risks to patients, and develop

recommendations regarding required dispensary personnel basic science training with certification regarding beneficial effects of cannabis and its adverse reactions; requirements for certifying practitioners to communicate with the patients' physicians and/or caregivers; and reiterate MedChi's longstanding policy regarding requirements to report medical cannabis dispensing to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and report progress back to the next MedChi House of Delegates (November, 2019).

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on April 28, 2019.