

1 OHIO STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

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3 Resolution No. 34 – 2024

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5 **Introduced by:** Jessica Geddes, MD, Kali Chiriboga, DO

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7 **Subject:** Encourage Marijuana Counseling and Harm Reduction

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9 **Referred to:** Resolutions Committee No. 2

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13 **WHEREAS**, on November 7, 2023, Ohio became the 24th state to legalize
14 recreational marijuana;¹ and

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16 **WHEREAS**, approximately half of Ohio adults have used marijuana and rates of
17 marijuana use are increasing both nationwide and in Ohio;² and

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19 **WHEREAS**, patient disclosures regarding marijuana use are an opportunity for
20 physicians to counsel patients regarding risks and benefits of marijuana use but are
21 often met with variable responses from physicians;³⁴ and

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23 **WHEREAS**, many physicians report a knowledge gap when it comes to
24 counseling patients on marijuana use;⁵ and

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26 **WHEREAS**, there is evidence for potential clinical uses (examples include for
27 chronic pain, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and multiple sclerosis
28 spasticity symptoms), and medical risks (examples include lung injury from smoking,
29 increased risk of acute coronary syndromes in patients with known cardiovascular
30 disease or those at high risk for cardiovascular disease) of marijuana;⁶ and

31
32 **WHEREAS**, there is evidence for marijuana harm reduction techniques, including
33 but not limited to: encouraging patients to get products from a medical dispensary or
34 authorized store, counseling regarding inconsistencies in labeling and advertising,
35 discussing risks of lung injury with smoking marijuana compared to other forms of
36 ingestion;⁷⁸ and

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38 **WHEREAS**, physicians in Ohio should be prepared to discuss marijuana use
39 with patients including risks, benefits, and harm reduction strategies; and therefore

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41 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the OSMA encourages physicians to be informed
42 regarding risks, benefits, and harm reduction techniques related to marijuana use, both
43 medical and recreational.

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45 **Fiscal Note:** \$ (Sponsor)
46 \$ 500 (Staff)

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48 **References:**

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