

# Ohio PTA Position Statement

## Opposition to the Legalization of Marijuana in Ohio

- WHEREAS,** according to the White House website on the Public Health Consequences of Marijuana Legalization, marijuana places a significant strain on our health care system, and poses considerable danger to the health and safety of the users themselves, their families, and our communities.
- WHEREAS,** according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse website, marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Its use is widespread among young people. According to a yearly survey of middle and high school students, rates of marijuana use have steadied in the past few years after several years of increase. However, the number of young people who believe marijuana use is risky is decreasing.
- WHEREAS,** marijuana stores could potentially be next door to schools and playgrounds, day care centers, and libraries built after January 1, 2015. The legalization of marijuana in Ohio could potentially threaten the health, welfare, and safety of children and youth throughout Ohio.
- WHEREAS,** there is currently sound evidence that smoked marijuana is harmful. Marijuana, like cigarettes, can be addictive; its use is detrimental to the developing adolescent brain. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved smoked marijuana for any use.
- WHEREAS,** Ohio PTA Convention Delegates passed a resolution opposing the legalization of marijuana in 1972 due to evidence that the effects of marijuana are detrimental to the safety and welfare of the user and society in general.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Ohio PTA Board of Directors registers their strong opposition to legalizing marijuana for medical and personal use for persons who are 21 years of age or older in Ohio through the current proposed state constitutional amendment known as Issue 3. And be it further
- RESOLVED,** that Ohio PTA will continue its 114-year focus on the health, welfare, safety, and education of all children and youth by compelling its members and other concerned citizens to speak against this constitutional amendment by voting NO on Issue 3.

**Adopted by the Ohio PTA Board of Directors September 2015**