

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION
Legislative Committee
Resolution on Marijuana
Passed 50-1-4 by Member Organizations' Delegates and Alternates
January 3, 2017

Whereas cannabis, commonly known as marijuana, can address pain, nausea and lack of appetite for those under treatment for cancer and HIV, and may also ease symptoms of epilepsy and multiple sclerosis (1)

Whereas the 28 states plus District of Columbia have adopted "medical marijuana" programs (2)

Whereas 86% of Virginians support a medical marijuana program (3)

Whereas objectively more lethal drugs like alcohol and tobacco are legal for adults to use (4)

Whereas the Virginia General Assembly has already passed laws that recognize the potential medical use of cannabis, but without a legal, fully-functioning path to acquire the medicine for a variety of illnesses (5)

Be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the General Assembly to:

- Update the laws related to medical marijuana, after comparing the existing medical marijuana programs in 28 states & DC for "best practices," and set up a system in Virginia that gives patients the option to access cannabis to provide therapeutic benefit; and
- During the time necessary to establish a medical marijuana system/program in Virginia, establish a statutory medical necessity defense to criminal marijuana possession or use charges against individuals under medical treatment for cancer, HIV, epilepsy or multiple sclerosis.

1. <http://www.webmd.com/brain/ss/slideshow-medical-marijuana>, slide 4, accessed 12/17/16.

2. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-medical-marijuana-laws.aspx>, accessed 12/17/16.

3. http://pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/virginia/poll-majority-of-virginians-want-marijuana-to-be-legal/article_e969c8f3-a960-58a2-9289-6cb280e4ce78.html, accessed 12/17/16 re April 2015 Quinnipiac University poll results.

4. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4311234/>, study released in January 2015 comparing lethal risk of marijuana, alcohol, tobacco and other substances.

5. <http://www.nbc12.com/story/31431128/virginia-lawmakers-pass-landmark-medical-marijuana-bill>, accessed 12/17/16.