

Tennessee Pharmacists Association

RESOLUTION 18.3 TPA House of Delegates

Medical Cannabis

WHEREAS, “medical cannabis” implies the use of cannabis and its components as medication therapies to improve patient health outcomes and optimize care; and,

WHEREAS, pharmacists are widely considered as the “medication experts” on the health care team and work daily to management and ensure patients achieve optimal health benefits from their medication therapies; and,

WHEREAS, patient use of medical cannabis and its components is currently legal at the state level in 29 states and the District of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, cannabis and its components are currently classified by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) as Schedule I controlled substances with no acceptable medicinal purposes; and,

WHEREAS, approval of medical cannabis and its components for medical use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the optimal method through which medical cannabis should be approved; and,

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA) acknowledges the reality that medical cannabis and its components has been legalized for patient use in the majority of states across the United States regardless of discrepancies between state and federal law; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 the legislature of the state of Tennessee decriminalized patient use of limited amounts of cannabis oils for select medical conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the legalization of medical cannabis and its components for use by patients in the state of Tennessee is being considered by the Tennessee General Assembly; and,

WHEREAS, classifying cannabis and its components as Schedule I controlled substances at the state and federal level severely restricts health care providers from conducting and evaluating human research on the uses, effects, side effects, dosing, and standardization of these products;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, TPA urges the FDA, DEA, and the State of Tennessee to work together to resolve federal and state legal and regulatory conflicts surrounding cannabis and its components; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, TPA supports and advocates for regulatory changes to facilitate more clinical research to determine the efficacy and safety associated with the use of cannabis and its components; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, TPA supports greater education for all health care providers regarding the clinical efficacy, safety, standardization, dosing, and management of patients using cannabis and its components; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if patient use of these products is legalized at the state and/or federal level, TPA advocates for the involvement of licensed pharmacists in the management of patients using medical cannabis and its components to ensure that patients receive the safest, most effective, and highest quality of medication-related care possible.

Submitted for consideration by the TPA Legislative and Regulatory Policy Committee
January 31, 2018

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Adopted as amended on a proper motion by the Tennessee Pharmacists Association House of Delegates
February 27, 2018

