

December 29, 2017

Members of the Columbia Board of Health

Re: Medical Marijuana Resolution

Dear Board of Health Member,

Stephanie Browning has invited me to submit some information I would like for you to review in regard to **the resolution introduced by Second Ward Council Member Mike Trapp in support of medical marijuana**, both in the Missouri General Assembly and in the form of an Initiative Petition which will place this matter before the voters of our state in November of 2018.

I am submitting herewith several short articles which summarize the results of several scientific and medical journal articles published in recent years. **Each of these articles contains a link to the full text of the study described.**

There is a large and growing body of scientific evidence which supports the usefulness of marijuana as medicine in the treatment of a wide variety of ailments and injuries for many years. In recent years, however, there has emerged a substantial and rapidly growing body of information which strongly indicates that the **availability of legal and regulated medical marijuana has a dramatic impact in reducing the consumption of and death from use of opioid drugs.**

As the attached report, "The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids", summarizing the findings of the **National Academies of Science** indicates, there is **very strong evidence that cannabis is useful in the treatment of chronic pain.** In fact, several studies indicate that the consumption of opioid drugs is dramatically reduced, if not eliminated all together, for many patients when they have access to marijuana for pain treatment.

**Opioid drugs** are very useful in the treatment of acute, short-term pain such as results from injuries. Opioid drugs are not appropriate for long-term chronic pain care because they often result in addiction and **have terrible side effects.** They also tend to become less effective over time. Worst of all, opioid drugs can, and often do, cause death at dosages not very much larger than the therapeutic dosage.

None of these things are true of cannabis. Cannabis does not have the potential to cause physical addiction. **No one has ever died from the toxic effects of cannabis consumption.** **The side effects of cannabis consumption are very mild** indeed compared to the terrible side effects of opioid drugs.

There is another proposed medical marijuana constitutional amendment initiative being circulated by a personal-injury lawyer from Springfield, Mr. Brad Bradshaw. Mr. Bradshaw's campaign is funded by a single individual: Brad Bradshaw.

Mr. Bradshaw's proposal would impose a high retail and wholesale tax on medical marijuana. The revenue from that tax would fund a "medical research institute" whose Board of Directors would be hand-picked by Brad Bradshaw.

Mr. Bradshaw is calling his proposal "the Bradshaw Amendment". He is claiming that the research it will fund will cure cancer!

Clearly, this is an irresponsible and totally self-serving proposal. By contrast, the New Approach Missouri amendment is based on the best aspects of the 30 other states which have already legalized access to medical marijuana. It provides for a tightly-regulated system of cannabis cultivation, processing and dispensing under a doctor's supervision. The much smaller tax which would be imposed under this proposal would go to fund veterans' health care and other services.

**I certainly hope you will agree that Mike Trapp's resolution merits the support of the Board of Health and the Columbia City Council.**

**Please contact me** if you have any questions or concerns about this issue, **before** the next meeting of the Board of Health. **I would be happy to meet with you** if you have time to do so to discuss this matter further or correspond via email or talk on the telephone. My cell phone number is **573-819-2669**.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Dan Viets

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Attachments: National Academy of Science Article, Statement from Judge Francis Young,  
Article by Dan Viets, Supporting Studies