

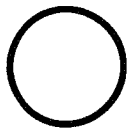
JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Room 317A, Wood County Courthouse

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Public comments. Now or at the time the item is taken up. Rules may apply.
3. Resolution opposing legalization of recreational marijuana.
4. Adjourn.



RESOLUTION#

Introduced by Judicial and Legislative Committee
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ITEM# 5DATE June 18, 2019Effective Date June 18, 2019

EMT

Motion:	Adopted: <input type="checkbox"/>
1 st _____	Lost: <input type="checkbox"/>
2 nd _____	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>
No: _____ Yes: _____	Absent: _____
Number of votes required:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Majority	<input type="checkbox"/> Two-thirds
Reviewed by: <u>PAK</u> , Corp Counsel	
Reviewed by: _____, Finance Dir.	

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To communicate with the state legislators directly and via the WCA the opposition of the residents of Wood County to legislation that would legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

FISCAL NOTE: Significant but unknown amount of cost savings to Wood County.

		NO	YES	A
1	LaFontaine, D			
2	Rozar, D			
3	Feirer, M			
4	Zaleski, J			
5	Fischer, A			
6	Breu, A			
7	Ashbeck, R			
8	Hahn, J			
9	Winch, W			
10	Holbrook, M			
11	Curry, K			
12	Machon, D			
13	Hokamp, M			
14	Polach, D			
15	Clendenning, B			
16	Pliml, L			
17	Zurfluh, J			
18	Hamilton, B			
19	Leichtnam, B			

WHEREAS, legalizing recreational marijuana for adults normalizes the use of this brain-altering substance, leading to greater exposure via ambient smoke to children from infants through teenagers and access to the substance by teenagers for experimentation, casual use and chronic use; and

WHEREAS, developing brains, especially those of babies in utero, children, and teenagers, are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of marijuana including a reduction in attention, memory, learning function, and behavior problems; and

WHEREAS, occasional use of marijuana causes altered senses and sense of time, changes in mood, impaired body movement, impaired memory and difficulty with thinking and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports evidence from multiple studies linking heavy marijuana use to memory damage, learning and attention deficits, and an increased risk of anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia, further straining schools and mental health systems; and

WHEREAS, marijuana negatively affects skills needed for safe driving and is the drug most often found in the blood of drivers involved in crashes; and

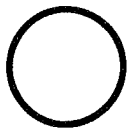
WHEREAS, since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, it has recorded a substantial increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths as well as drivers who tested positive for marijuana in non-fatal crashes; and

WHEREAS, national experience with other legal adult substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and vaping has led to youth access, experimentation, some chronic use, and infiltration into America's high schools, causing multiple, costly consequences related to discipline and mental health; and

WHEREAS, marijuana has been identified as a gateway drug and use by teenagers does not promote a safe, efficient school learning environment for all students, meaning school counselors and teachers are challenged to overcome side-effects on user's mood, behavior, motivation and memory; and

WHEREAS, adolescent and young adult marijuana use is negatively correlated with high school and post-secondary educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, legalizing marijuana substantially increases the risk of impairment for those working in the manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and other business sectors, as evidenced by data showing employees who test

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positive for marijuana use had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, and 75% greater absenteeism compared to those who tested negative; and

WHEREAS, retail business establishments identify concerns with verbal and physical altercations involving substance users that can negatively impact business and revenue; and

WHEREAS, states with legalized recreational marijuana have experienced an increase in unintended consequences including increases in motor vehicle crash rates, increases in marijuana addiction among youth and people of color, environmental issues, accidental childhood poisonings from ingesting edibles, and increased criminal behavior including organized crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wood County Board of Supervisors does hereby oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana in the state of Wisconsin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wood County Board of Supervisors urges the State of Wisconsin to closely review the statistics and other data available surrounding marijuana use so that Wisconsin can remain a safe and healthy state for residents to enjoy recreational activities, support families and drug-free homes, attract entrepreneurs, provide for the future of our State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers, Department of Children and Families Secretary Emilie Amundson, Department of Health Services Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be referred to the Wisconsin Counties Association so as to be considered at the WCA Annual Business Meeting.