



***RESOLUTION for the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board in partnership with Summit County Public Health to declare their opposition to any attempts to commercialize or legalize marijuana for recreational purposes in the State of Ohio. Further, we believe that legalizing marijuana for medical use should not be decided by legislative or voter initiative. Marijuana should be subject to the same research, consideration, and study as any other potential medicine, under the standards of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We support controlled research into the benefits of cannabis-based medicines which would provide scientifically-valid support for the conditions it is proven to help; controlled strength and purity; appropriate dosage levels; and safe means of administration.***

WHEREAS, the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) opposes the legalization of marijuana, marijuana is the illicit substance most commonly abused by adolescents, and any change in the legal status of marijuana, even if limited to adults, could affect the prevalence of use among adolescents; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use is prevalent among youth in our community and ranked first in substances abused by teens in the [2013 Youth Risk Behavior](#) of 12,548 High School students (81.7%) and 6,790 (84.6%) Middle School students in Summit County, and cannabis use is the most common problem for which youth receive treatment in Summit County youth addiction treatment programs; and

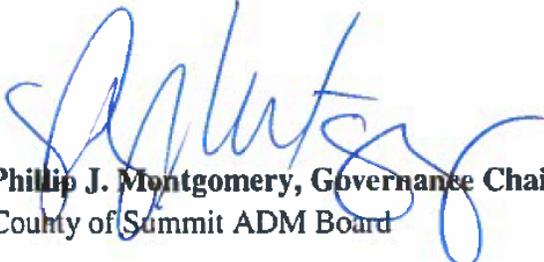
WHEREAS, the [American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#) published a study which demonstrated that addictive substances like alcohol and tobacco, which are legal and taxed, already result in much higher social costs than the revenue they generate, and the cost to society of alcohol alone is estimated to be more than 15 times the revenue gained by their taxation; and

WHEREAS, the [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(AACAP\)](#) has stated its concern about the negative impact of “medical” marijuana on youth, adolescents are especially vulnerable to the many adverse developmental, cognitive, medical, psychiatric, and addictive effects of marijuana, and furthermore, marijuana's deleterious effects on cognition and brain development during adolescence may have lasting implications; and

WHEREAS, the [American Society of Addiction Medicine \(ASAM\)](#) asserts that cannabis, cannabis-based products, and cannabis delivery devices should be subject to the same standards that are applicable to other prescription medications and medical devices and that these products should not be distributed or otherwise provided to patients unless and until such products or devices have received marketing approval from the Food and Drug Administration, ASAM rejects smoking as a means of drug delivery since it is not safe.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, we advocate that Marijuana should be subject to the same research, consideration, and study as any other potential medicine, under the standards of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and that legalizing marijuana for medical use should not be decided by legislative or voter initiative. Because the legalization of marijuana will increase access and thereby exacerbate an existing public health problem and negatively impact the safety of our communities, the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board and Summit County Public Health hereby express opposition to any effort to commercialize or legalize marijuana in the State of Ohio.

**Ratified on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, Two Thousand and Fifteen.**



**Phillip J. Montgomery, Governance Chair**  
County of Summit ADM Board



**Gerald A. Craig, Executive Director**  
County of Summit ADM Board