

02-8-3-2017

Resolution - Platform Policy on the Legalization of Marijuana/Cannabis

WHEREAS, The prohibition of cannabis was based on racism and bigotry, but not science or sound reasoning ^{[3][4][5][6][38]};

WHEREAS, The government, at all levels, regulates the legal sale of substances known through scientific rigor to be harmful - even deadly - to humans, which are not regulated by the Controlled Substances Act ^{[32][33][34][35][36]}.

WHEREAS, Cannabis is one of the most well-studied plants in human history^{[1][18][37][38]}

WHEREAS, The People and legislatures of 28 states, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have already legalized the usage of cannabis for medical purposes ^{[19][20][24]}

WHEREAS, Cannabis is used safely and responsibly every day without medical supervision by more than one million Pennsylvanians ^{[2][11]}

WHEREAS, Cannabis does not fit any of the criteria to be placed in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act ^{[23][24]}

WHEREAS, Approximately 25,000 People are arrested per year for possession, sale, or cultivation of cannabis by State and local law enforcement in Pennsylvania ^{[12][13]}

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth spends between \$150 - \$200 million/year enforcing prohibition policies ^[2]

WHEREAS, The black market resulting from the prohibition of cannabis is completely opaque to public entities, can lead to violence between parties, is totally unregulated, and is thus not a good outcome of policy

WHEREAS, The prohibition of cannabis has had no meaningful positive effect, as it is widely available in the Commonwealth. By any objective measure the prohibition of cannabis has been a dismal failure^[2]

WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have been arrested, imprisoned, fined, or otherwise needlessly criminalized and stigmatized resulting in lost productivity and quality of life for their use of cannabis

WHEREAS, Approximately 47%-51% of Pennsylvanians support the full legalization of cannabis^{[16][17]}

WHEREAS, The prohibition of cannabis has caused otherwise law abiding Americans to view law enforcement with a distrust that ultimately harms both police and the communities they are sworn to protect^{[7][8][9]}

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to adopt an official platform position which recognizes the above facts about cannabis. The Party resolves that cannabis is safe enough, and ubiquitous enough in society, that it does not need to be restricted or prohibited by the Controlled Substances Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to support candidates and policies which promote the full repeal of cannabis prohibition by its removal from the Controlled Substances Act, and to support the creation of new laws which regulate it in a manner similar to other culturally accepted commodities.

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Citations:

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