

# Why Marijuana Is Not Medicine

## The Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016 & The Arkansas Medical Cannabis Act

*“We all want those who are ill or suffering to have the right kind of medicine, but there is a reason we have an FDA approval process for new medicines. We don’t vote on cancer cures and we should not set a new pattern of determining what is good medicine at the ballot box.”*

*– Governor Asa Hutchinson*

### Facts to know:

- In the U.S., a substance must complete FDA approval process to be considered “medicine.” Marijuana has not been FDA approved and, thus, is not a medicinal substance as unrefined plant product.
- Habitual adolescent users are at significant risk of permanent cognitive impairment.
- Proposed legislation for "medical" marijuana in Arkansas allows minors to receive it with a parental signature.
- 9% of those who experiment with marijuana will become addicted.
- One in six of those who use marijuana as teenagers become addicted, 25 to 50% of those who smoke marijuana daily become addicted.
- Regular marijuana use is associated with an increased risk of anxiety and depression.
- Adolescent marijuana use is linked to impaired school performance & increased drop out rates.
- Marijuana is linked to the precipitation of psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia.
- The psychoactive component of marijuana is known as THC. In 1960, the THC content in marijuana was 2%. Today, the average THC content in marijuana is 24%.

- Chronic marijuana smoking is associated with chronic bronchitis, chronic cough, increased sputum and increased wheeze.
- Per proposed Arkansas legislation, a diagnosis of asthma qualifies a person to receive "medical" marijuana.
- Marijuana smoke contains many of the same carcinogens and pulmonary irritants as tobacco smoke.
- The vast majority of those who use marijuana smoke it rather than ingesting it.
- Migraines, ADHD, fibromyalgia, asthma, and insomnia would all qualify for "medical" marijuana per proposed Arkansas legislation.
- The suggested use of medical marijuana is not a prescription-based process. Rather, the patient would receive notes from a doctor without the use of a prescription pad.

### **Other facts to know about these initiatives:**

- Employers and landlords will not be able to "discriminate" against marijuana users per proposal.
- Tax revenue from marijuana sales would go to purchase marijuana for low-income residents.
- Parents can sign a form to allow their children to get medical marijuana.
- In the initiative, there is a "grow your own" provision for individuals who live more than 20 miles from a dispensary.
- Arkansas marijuana legislation permits growing of marijuana on rental property even if landlord/owner disapproves.

## Marijuana Bibliography

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