
The Massachusetts Medical Society

OPPOSES

Question 3: Medical Use of Marijuana

In November, voters will have the opportunity to vote on Question 3, Medical Use of Marijuana.

We are OPPOSED to Question 3

As physicians, we strive to treat all patients with compassion and find the most effective treatment for those who are suffering. However:

- ✦ Marijuana has not been subjected to the same rigorous, scientific testing as other drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Claims for its effectiveness are not scientifically proven, and would not be accepted as proof of effectiveness for any other medicine under development.
- ✦ Marijuana poses health risks. For example, marijuana smoke contains more poisons than tobacco smoke, as well as carbon monoxide and tar. Its use has also been associated with long-term impairments of mental capacity.
- ✦ Physician-prescribing of any drug is a medical decision and should be decided by scientific fact, not by public ballot.

The Massachusetts Medical Society:

- ✦ Advocates that marijuana be reclassified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) so that its potential medicinal use by humans may be further studied and potentially regulated by the FDA.
- ✦ Supports the development of non-smoked, reliable delivery systems for cannabis-derived and cannabinoid medications for research purposes.

Until such time that scientific studies demonstrate its safety and efficacy, the Massachusetts Medical Society opposes the legalization of medicinal marijuana and cannot support legislation intended to involve physicians in certifying, authorizing, or otherwise directing persons in the area of medicinal marijuana outside of scientific clinical trials.

For more information and references, visit www.massmed.org/Question3.



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The Massachusetts Medical Society is a statewide organization representing more than 24,000 physicians and medical students.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY | 860 WINTER STREET, WALTHAM, MA 02451 | WWW.MASSMED.ORG/QUESTION3