

RESOLUTION

NO: [Title]

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: Click or tap to enter a date.

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**Resolution Opposing the Recreational Use of Marijuana – Board of Commissioners**

**WHEREAS,** proposals for the recreational use of marijuana are being placed on the ballot in communities across Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** there is significant evidence demonstrating that non-medical or recreational use of marijuana has a profoundly negative impact on our youth, particularly teenagers; and

**WHEREAS,** *The National Institute on Drug Abuse* reports that one in six teens that use marijuana become addicted to its use; and

**WHEREAS,** *Monitoring the Future, 2017* reports that marijuana use increased to 24% among adolescents in 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades combined and one in ten 12<sup>th</sup> grade students vaped marijuana in the past year; and

**WHEREAS,** *Michigan Transportation Research Institute* reports that driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with an increased risk of car crashes, especially fatal crashes; marijuana driving related fatalities increased by 67% from 2007 to 2015. And from 2014 to 2015 it went up 20% in one year; and

**WHEREAS,** *MATFORCE, the Yavapai County Substance Abuse Coalition in Arizona* reports that drug related school expulsions spiked 45% in Colorado, a state which has legalized medical and recreational marijuana use, in the years after legalization; and

**WHEREAS,** *National Highway Traffic Association* reports that driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with an increased risk of car crashes, especially fatal crashes; and

**WHEREAS,** the University of Colorado, Denver reports that marijuana-impaired driver related fatalities have risen 114% in Colorado since that State legalized the use of marijuana; and

**WHEREAS,** *Join Together* reports that the active ingredient in marijuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), has increased significantly from an average of 1% in 1970 to 30% in 2013, making today's marijuana an alarmingly more potent drug; and

**WHEREAS,** general marijuana use and possession is not permitted by federal and state law; and

**WHEREAS,** it is not possible to foresee and mitigate all the associated risks and impact to our communities through the recreational use of marijuana; and

**WHEREAS,** Livingston County recognizes the need to educate all sectors of our community regarding the dangers of non-medical marijuana use; and

**WHEREAS,** marijuana is now the number one reason kids enter treatment for substance abuse – more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, ecstasy, and other drugs combines; and

**WHEREAS,** increased consumption of marijuana would likely lead to higher public health and financial costs for society. Addictive substances like alcohol and tobacco already result in much higher social costs than the revenue they generate. The cost to society of alcohol alone is estimated to be more than 15 times the revenue gained by their taxation; and

**WHEREAS,** marijuana legalization would not eliminate the black market for the drug; and

**WHEREAS,** emergency room admissions for marijuana use now exceed those for heroin and are continuing to rise; the link between suicide and marijuana is strong, as are car accidents, including fatal crashes.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners is opposed to the legalization of marijuana for general use.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners encourages others to oppose the recreational use of marijuana for general use including the adoption of similar resolutions in opposition to the general use of legalization of non-medical marijuana.

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**MOVED:**  
**SECONDED:**  
**CARRIED:**