



## RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, the North Coastal Prevention Coalition (NCPC) is committed to the success and positive future of our youth, and to the health and safety of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is addictive, particularly for adolescents<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, more teens report using marijuana than tobacco in San Diego County<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, frequent users of today's highly potent marijuana lose an average of eight IQ points<sup>4</sup>. Students who are frequent marijuana users are 60 percent less likely to complete high school, 60 percent less likely to graduate college, and seven times more likely to attempt suicide than non-users<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, population studies reveal an association between youth marijuana use and increased risk of mental health disorders including psychosis and schizophrenia<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use disorders have increased in all age groups over the past decade, and marijuana accounts for most adolescent drug treatment admissions<sup>8</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, where recreational marijuana is legal and commercialized, teen use of marijuana is 50% above the national average, and marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92% from 2010 to 2014 while all traffic deaths increased only 8 percent during the same time period<sup>9</sup>; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows our drug problem is a major public health and safety threat, and drug addiction is a disease that can be successfully prevented and treated. Legalizing drugs would increase their availability and normalize their use, leading to increased negative health consequences, particularly among young people<sup>10</sup>.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Coastal Prevention Coalition believes the legalization and commercialization of marijuana for recreational use will increase advertising, availability, and use by adolescents and lead to negative consequences to the health and safety of our citizens; NCPC supports public education on the harms of marijuana and proven prevention interventions such as community-based prevention coalitions, drug courts, offender re-entry programs and probation reform; and further supports making drug treatment available to all who need it.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015

By

  
Craig Balben, President

North Coastal Prevention Coalition

[www.northcoastalpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.northcoastalpreventioncoalition.org)