

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CANNABIS  
ACCESS FOR PATIENTS UNDER DOCTOR'S  
CARE**

Passed by SCC – November 14, 2017

**WHEREAS**, Cannabis has been used for the treatment of ailments for at least 10,000 years without a recorded death from overdose and without the addictive qualities of an opioid, barbiturate, tobacco or alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Institute of Health has conducted over 7,000 studies of cannabis' various forms for a variety of ailments; world-wide over 370,000 studies have been reported and published; and

**WHEREAS**, Both scientific studies and personal testimony confirm cannabis as effective in combating: 1) Cancer<sup>1</sup>, 2) Glaucoma, 3) Human immunodeficiency virus, 4) Crohn's disease, 5) Tourette's syndrome, 6) Severe and persistent muscle spasms, 7) Seizures, 8) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, 9) Hepatitis C, 10) Huntington's Disease, 11) Lupus, Parkinson's disease, 14) Terminal illness; 15) Lyme disease, 14) Terminal illness, 15) Spinal cord injury or disease, 16) PTSD, 17) pain management; and other human and animal ailments; and

**WHEREAS**, Twenty-four states, Washington D.C., and Guam allow use of cannabis for medical treatments with over two million patient participants; the exact number of suffering Nebraskans forced to seek relief from the black market is unknown but it has been estimated that Nebraska may have 25,000 cases of intractable epilepsy; and

**WHEREAS**, Deaths from prescription drugs approved by the FDA and obtained from a pharmacist filling a doctor's proscription<sup>2</sup>, or from the black market, have increased nationally by 411%, making prescription overdose deaths the leading cause of preventable death, more deaths than those from traffic accidents; and

**WHEREAS**, For the second year Congress has prohibited the Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Agency from using federal funds to interfere with medical cannabis programs being conducted in a manner consistent with state law; and

**WHEREAS**, Within the next five years, the legal cannabis industry is predicted to out-earn the American film industry, the organic foods industry and more than triple the revenues of the NFL; and

**WHEREAS**, For over three (3) years afflicted Nebraskans have petitioned elected officials for access to cannabis as recommended by a licensed doctor for treatment without relocation to another state or the commission of a felony but not a man, woman or child has received an authorized treatment<sup>3</sup> in Nebraska;<sup>4</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Nebraska Democrats support access by Nebraskans to natural cannabis upon the recommendation of their doctor and urge the removal of state and federal restrictions criminalizing such access.

### **ENDNOTES**

1. Cancer is the leading cause of deaths in Nebraska (3,458 or 22% of all deaths of Nebraska residents in 2013); cannabis alleviates the effects of conventional treatments calming nauseous and restoring appetite and applications have resulted in remission of certain types of cancer in rodents and humans.
2. The recent death of Prince who was reported to have been taking Percocet for chronic pain may be one example. Kurt Cobain might be another. The decreased availability of opioid is credited for the sharp increase in heroin use leading to a rising addiction rate of American white, middle-aged individuals. Heroin-related overdoses nearly quadrupled between 2002 and 2013 with more than 8,200 deaths in 2013.
3. During April debate on LB 643, a Nebraska bill which would have allowed highly regulated access for some conditions, state Senator Lydia Brasch repeatedly referred to the federal “Compassionate Care IND” program indicating Congressman Fortenberry's staff and hers would assist entry for anyone who truly required cannabis treatment. No one has been admitted to the treatment with cannabis since 1992.
4. In 2015 the Legislature authorized a single, limited research study on a few selected cases of epilepsy by the University of Nebraska Medical Center (LB 390) but the Medical Center has not admitted any patients to-date despite their association with GW Pharmaceuticals, a British company which gained DEA approval of their program in New York.

SIGNED

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Gage County Democrats