

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 117

Expressing the sense of Congress that marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug and should not be legalized for medicinal use.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 1998

Mr. MCCOLLUM (for himself, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. GEKAS) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug and should not be legalized for medicinal use.

Whereas certain drugs are listed on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act if they have a high potential for abuse, lack any currently accepted medical use in treatment, and are unsafe, even under medical supervision;

Whereas the consequences of addiction to Schedule I drugs are well documented, particularly with regard to physical health, highway safety, criminal activity, and domestic violence;

Whereas marijuana—which, along with crack cocaine, heroin, PCP, and more than 100 other drugs, has long been classified as a Schedule I drug—is both dangerous and addictive, with research clearly demonstrating that smoked marijuana impairs normal brain functions and damages the heart, lungs, reproductive system, and immune system;

Whereas before any drug can be approved as a medication in the United States, it must meet extensive scientific and medical standards established by the Food and Drug Administration, and marijuana has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat any disease or condition;

Whereas a review by the *Annals of Internal Medicine* of more than 6,000 articles from the medical literature evaluating the potential medicinal applications of marijuana concluded that marijuana is not a medicine, that its use causes significant toxicity, and that numerous safe and effective medicines are available, which means that the use of crude marijuana for medicinal purposes is unnecessary and inappropriate;

Whereas on the basis of the scientific evidence and the testimony of the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, the National Multiple Sclerosis Association, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the National Eye Institute, and the National Institute of Drug Abuse, marijuana has not met the necessary standards to be approved as medicine;

Whereas the States of Arizona and California, through State initiatives in 1996, legalized the sale and use of marijuana for “medicinal” use, while the State of Washington

in 1997 rejected an initiative to legalize the sale and use of marijuana for “medicinal” use;

Whereas after the initiative in Arizona, the legislature of the State of Arizona, with the support of a majority of the citizens of the State, passed legislation to prevent the dispensing of any substance as medicine if the substance had not first been approved as medicine by the Food and Drug Administration, thereby preventing marijuana from being dispensed in the State;

Whereas these States and a majority of States in the United States, as well as the District of Columbia, have been targeted by out-of-State organizations that advocate drug legalization for “medical” marijuana initiatives in 1998 and 1999, and these organizations have provided the majority of the financial support for these State initiatives;

Whereas although some individuals and organizations who support “medical” marijuana initiatives do oppose drug legalization, prominent pro-legalization organizations have admitted that their strategy is to promote drug legalization nationally through State “medical” marijuana initiatives, and, as such, are seeking to exploit the public’s compassion for the terminally ill to advance their agenda;

Whereas marijuana use by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders declined steadily from 1980 to 1992, but, from 1992 to 1996, such use dramatically increased—by 253 percent among 8th graders, 151 percent among 10th graders, and 84 percent among 12th graders—and the average age of first-time use of marijuana is now younger than it has ever been;

Whereas according to the 1997 survey by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 500,000 8th graders began using marijuana in the 6th and 7th grades;

Whereas according to that same 1997 survey, youths between the ages of 12 and 17 who use marijuana are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than those who abstain from marijuana and 60 percent of adolescents who use marijuana before the age of 15 will later use cocaine;

Whereas the rate of drug use among youth is linked to their perceptions of the risks related to drugs and, in that regard, the glamorization of marijuana and the ambiguous cultural messages about marijuana use are contributing to a growing acceptance of marijuana use among adolescents and teenagers;

Whereas surveys taken in the wake of State “medical” marijuana initiatives indicate a more approving attitude toward marijuana use among teenagers than prior to the initiatives; and

Whereas the evidence of the last 2 years indicates that the more the public learns about the facts behind the “medical” marijuana campaign, the more strongly opposed the public becomes to such initiatives: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That—

4 (1) Congress is unequivocally opposed to legal-

5 izing marijuana for medicinal use, and urges the de-

6 feat of State initiatives that would seek to legalize

7 marijuana for medicinal use; and

1 (2) not later than 90 days after the date of en-
2 actment of this Act, the Attorney General shall sub-
3 mit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the
4 House of Representatives and the Senate a report
5 on—

6 (A) the total quantity of marijuana eradi-
7 cated in the United States during the years
8 1992 through 1997; and

9 (B) the annual number of arrests and
10 prosecutions for Federal marijuana offenses
11 during the years 1992 through 1997.

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