

A Resolution Opposing Ballot Question 4:  
Creating a Commercial Marijuana Industry and Legalizing 'Recreational' Marijuana

Whereas, Question 4 would create a billion dollar commercial marijuana industry in Massachusetts.

Whereas, Massachusetts has already decriminalized marijuana possession for personal use and authorized medical marijuana; and

Whereas, the question specifically authorizes marijuana edibles (products like candy bars, cookies and gummy bears), oils and concentrates, and specifically limits communities' ability to restrict the locations and growth of marijuana retail shops; and

Whereas, this question will have a significant impact on public safety, as evidenced in states where liberalization of marijuana laws has brought an increased risk of motor vehicle accidents, as marijuana can impair coordination, reaction time, and sensory perception; and

Whereas, marijuana is the third most common cause of drug dependence in the United States, after tobacco and alcohol, an estimated 9 percent of those who try marijuana will become addicted, 17 percent for those who start using as teenagers and as many as 25 to 50 percent in those who use marijuana daily; and

Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana with recent reports stating that "despite ongoing regulation of the tobacco and alcohol industries, youth remain common targets and ultimately consumers of these products," and with studies that have shown negative effects on cognition and brain development in youth and young adults who use marijuana; and

Whereas, the following organizations and individuals oppose this initiative

- Massachusetts Hospital Association
- Massachusetts Medical Society
- Associated Industries of Massachusetts
- Retailers Association of Massachusetts
- Association of School Superintendents
- Association for Behavioral Healthcare
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (Massachusetts Chapter)
- Massachusetts Chiefs of Police
- Massachusetts Sheriffs Association
- All Massachusetts District Attorneys
- State and municipal leaders, including Gov. Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, Speaker Robert DeLeo, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the Massachusetts Municipal Association and a bipartisan majority of 121 of legislators; and

Whereas the \_\_\_\_\_ School Committee supports a curriculum that educates children and families about the health effects of marijuana, underage substance use prevention and addiction;

Therefore, the \_\_\_\_\_ School Committee opposes passage of ballot Question 4 to legalize the commercial marijuana industry and 'recreational' marijuana