

Resolution #15

Support for Cannabis in Healthcare

WHEREAS:

The voters of the State of California passed Proposition 215 to legalize marijuana, also known as cannabis, for medical purposes in 1996 with 55.8 percent of the vote; and

WHEREAS:

In 2003, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 420 into law to further regulate and clarify state medical cannabis laws; and

WHEREAS:

In 2010, California further decriminalized cannabis with the passage of Senate Bill 1449, making possession of up to an ounce of marijuana an infraction rather than a misdemeanor; and

WHEREAS:

In 2015, the California State Legislature passed into law a trio of bills, known together as the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA) to create a statewide system for the regulation and taxation of medical cannabis; and

WHEREAS:

In 2016, the voters of California passed Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), to legalize, regulate, and tax cannabis for adult use with 57.1 percent of voters supporting the initiative; and

WHEREAS:

Californians have engaged directly in lawmaking through the initiative process and have demonstrated on multiple occasions the will of the people to legalize cannabis for both medical and adult use purposes in the state; and

WHEREAS:

A 2013 study revealed that four of five doctors approve of medical marijuana and that more than 90 percent of medical marijuana patients say that medical marijuana has helped treat their conditions, including many seniors; and

WHEREAS:

Marijuana is a proven and effective treatment choice for many illnesses and conditions that impact the lives of seniors and people with disabilities such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, epilepsy, Alzheimer's, arthritis, HIV/AIDS, and chronic pain in general; and

WHEREAS:

Marijuana is often a safer alternative to many prescription drugs like opioids and antipsychotics, and far fewer severe side effects. It can also be more cost efficient. A senior spends on average close to \$3,000

per year on prescription drugs alone. Contrast that with the national average of how much a person spends on medical marijuana per year—about \$650; and

WHEREAS:

As caregivers of seniors and people with disabilities, home care providers want the most effective, affordable and compassionate treatments for those we care for; and

WHEREAS:

Past criminalization of marijuana has disproportionately impacted people of color and the poor; and

WHEREAS:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 supports advances in research and treatment for people with disabilities, including those that are holistic and allow for person-centered choice in all aspects of medical treatment.

BE IT RESOLVED:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 will work with the California Legislature to create policy that supports access and treatment options for our clients that include the full range of cannabis-related choices and training for care providers in the administration of cannabis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 will work with all levels of local government to ensure access and affordable treatment for those who choose it.

SUBMITTED BY:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 Executive Board