

**RESOLUTION NO: 2017M01 - AMENDED**

**SUBJECT: Indiana Medical Cannabis**

**ORIGIN: Post 6, Kokomo, Ind.**

**SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Staker**

WHEREAS, Indiana law currently prohibits the use of medical cannabis within the state; and,

WHEREAS, during The American Legion, 98th National Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2016, delegates unanimously adopted Resolution 11 of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation report, which urges the Drug Enforcement Agency to license and allow more private growth and research of cannabis, and Congress to move cannabis from the federal Drug Schedule I classification and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration has begun to recognize medical cannabis use by patients in several other states and Washington, D.C. where cannabis is legal and allows physicians to advise and monitor patients who use cannabis in states where it is legal; and,

WHEREAS, many other states have independently moved toward cannabis reform for medical use and have been successful in delivering a safe treatment alternative to those military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and other chronic physical and mental medical conditions in those states; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize veterans are at risk of opioid addiction and overdose; and that states that allow medical marijuana have had a significant decrease in both addiction rates as well as overdose deaths.

WHEREAS, cannabis reportedly has nowhere near the adverse side effects as compared to other drugs often prescribed to veteran patients with chronic illnesses or debilitating conditions; and

WHEREAS, prescribed drugs such as opioids and benzodiazepines are reported to have high potential for adverse side effects and high potential for abuse and addiction, which could potentially lead to hospitalization or death by the patients who consume them; now, therefore, it be,

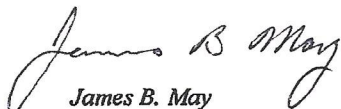
RESOLVED, The American Legion, Department of Indiana Department Executive Committee, assembled in Indianapolis, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017, supports National Convention Resolution No.: 11 passed during the 98th National Convention in Cincinnati, which urges the Drug Enforcement Agency to license and allow more private growth and research of cannabis, and Congress to remove cannabis from the federal Drug Schedule I classification and reclassify it; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that The American Legion, Department of Indiana urges the Indiana General Assembly to license privately-funded medical marijuana production operations in the State of Indiana to enable safe and efficient cannabis drug development research; and be it finally,

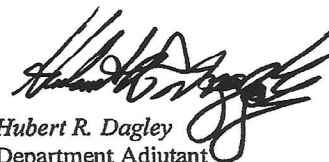
RESOLVED, That The American Legion, Department of Indiana urge the Indiana General Assembly amend state legislation to remove restrictions from marijuana and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum, will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value.



Rodney Strong  
Chairman  
Rehabilitation Commission



James B. May  
Department Commander  
Chairman, DEC



Hubert R. Dagley  
Department Adjutant  
Secretary, DEC

RESOLUTION NO.:  
SUBJECT: Medical Cannabis Legislation  
ORIGIN: VFW Post 2067, Peru, Indiana.  
SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Staker

20 April 2018  
Revised

WHEREAS, Indiana law currently prohibits the use of medical cannabis within the state; and,

WHEREAS, of the revised date of this Resolution, current on-line polls of our fellow Hoosier Veterans show that 86.4% are supportive of the medical use of cannabis to treat our veterans; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this Resolution the Congress has given consideration via the Veterans Equal Access Act, "To authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers to provide recommendations and opinions to veterans regarding participation in State marijuana programs;" and

WHEREAS, at the time of this Resolution the Congress is also given consideration via the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017, "To limit the application of Federal laws to the distribution and consumption of marihuana, and for other purposes;" and

WHEREAS, many other states (30 and Washington D.C.) have independently moved toward cannabis reform for medical use and have been successful in delivering a safe treatment alternative to those military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and other chronic physical and mental medical conditions in those states, to mention a few; and

WHEREAS, prescribed drugs such as opioids and benzodiazepines are reported to have high potential for adverse side effects and high potential for abuse and addiction, which could potentially lead to hospitalization or death by the patients who consume them; and

WHEREAS, we recognize veterans are at risk of opioid addiction and overdose; and that states that allow medical cannabis have had a significant decrease in both addiction rates as well as overdose deaths.

WHEREAS, cannabis reportedly has nowhere near the adverse side effects as compared to other drugs often prescribed to veteran patients with chronic illnesses or debilitating conditions; and

WHEREAS, the VFW at the 118<sup>th</sup> National Convention in July 2017 did within their proposed by laws pass #627 Medical Cannabis Treatment By Veterans Administration Practitioners; and

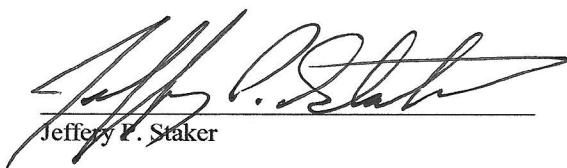
WHEREAS, VFW members of Post 2067 and the 5th District of Indiana did unanimously vote to move this Resolution forward; then now, therefore, it be,

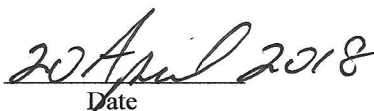
RESOLVED, that The VFW, Department of Indiana assembled in Indianapolis, from 31 May – 3 June, 2018 urge the Indiana General Assembly to adopt legislation for a statewide cannabis treatment program as a legal and safe medical alternative for veterans suffering from PTS, TBI and other chronic physical, mental medical conditions and opioid/drug addiction who choose to use cannabis under the advisement and care of a private physician.

RESOLVED, that The VFW, Department of Indiana urges the Indiana General Assembly to license privately-funded medical marijuana production operations in the State of Indiana to enable safe and efficient cannabis drug development research; and

RESOLVED, That The VFW, Department of Indiana urge the Indiana General Assembly amend state legislation to remove restrictions from marijuana and reclassify it in a category that or there to, at a minimum, will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, That The VFW, at a National level to support and petition the Congress to enact legislation that would provide our veterans with legal, safe medical cannabis programs.

  
Jeffrey P. Staker

  
Date





WHEREAS, during The AMVETS, Department of Indiana Spring Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana, March 5-6, 2017 a motion was made and properly seconded and unanimously approved by the Indiana AMVETS Department Executive Committee to urge the Drug Enforcement Agency to license and allow more private growth and research of cannabis, and Congress to move cannabis from the federal Drug Schedule I classification and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration has begun to recognize medical cannabis use by patients in several other states and Washington, D.C. where cannabis is legal and allows physicians to advise and monitor patients who use cannabis in states where it is legal; and Indiana law currently prohibits the use of medical cannabis within the state; and,

WHEREAS, many other states have independently moved toward cannabis reform for medical use and have been successful in delivering a safe treatment alternative to those military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and other chronic physical and mental medical conditions in those states; and we recognize veterans are at risk of opioid addiction and overdose; and that states that allow medical marijuana have had a significant decrease in both addiction rates as well as overdose deaths.

WHEREAS, cannabis reportedly has nowhere near the adverse side effects as compared to other drugs often prescribed to veterans with chronic illnesses or debilitating conditions; and prescribed drugs such as opioids and benzodiazepines are reported to have high potential for adverse side effects and high potential for abuse and addiction, which could potentially lead to hospitalization or death by the patients who consume them; now, therefore, it be,

RESOLVED, AMVETS, Department of Indiana, assembled in Indianapolis, Sunday, June 5th, 2017, urges the Drug Enforcement Agency to license and allow more private growth and research of cannabis, and Congress to remove cannabis from the federal Drug Schedule I classification and reclassify it; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that AMVETS, Department of Indiana urges the Indiana General Assembly to license privately-funded medical marijuana production operations in the State of Indiana to enable safe and efficient cannabis drug development research; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, AMVETS, Department of Indiana urges the Indiana General Assembly to amend the Indiana Code to remove restrictions from marijuana and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum, will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value.