

As Introduced

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
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S. C. R. No. 13

Senator Yuko

Cosponsors: Senators Brown, Thomas, Schiavoni, Sykes

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

To urge the United States Congress, the Attorney General 1
of the United States, and the United States Drug 2
Enforcement Administration to reclassify marijuana, or 3
cannabis. 4

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Cannabis, also known as marijuana, is a plant 5
comprised of more than eighty active chemical components. 6
According to the National Cancer Institute, these chemical 7
components, or cannabinoids, activate specific receptors found 8
throughout the body to produce pharmacologic effects, 9
particularly in the immune system and central nervous system; 10
and 11

WHEREAS, Scientific research has shown cannabis and its 12
derivatives to have a range of effects that may be 13
therapeutically useful, including in the treatment of epilepsy, 14
glaucoma, post-traumatic stress disorder, cancer, fibromyalgia, 15
multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and amyotrophic lateral 16
sclerosis; however, rigorous clinical studies are still needed 17
to evaluate the effectiveness of cannabis in treating these and 18
other serious medical conditions; and 19

WHEREAS, At least twenty-nine states, including Ohio, as 20
well as the District of Columbia, allow for comprehensive public 21
medical marijuana and cannabis programs, indicating that their 22
citizens believe that cannabis can safely provide a therapeutic 23
benefit to many patients; and 24

WHEREAS, The federal Controlled Substances Act defines a 25
schedule I controlled substance as a drug that has no currently 26
accepted medical use in treatment, a lack of accepted safety for 27
use under medical supervision, and a high potential for abuse. 28
Federal law presently classifies marijuana, or cannabis, as a 29
schedule I controlled substance. Because of this classification, 30
certain regulatory requirements must be met before clinical 31
research can be conducted on cannabis. For example, a researcher 32
must register with the United States Drug Enforcement 33
Administration in order to be authorized to handle the 34
substance. Also each facility where cannabis is stored or 35
dispensed must hold a separate registration. According to the 36
National Institute on Drug Abuse, these and other regulatory 37
barriers have likely contributed to the lack of well-controlled 38
clinical trials; and 39

WHEREAS, Because cannabis is classified as a schedule I 40
controlled substance, additional barriers exist. For instance, 41
it can be difficult for a patient to obtain health insurance 42
coverage for medical cannabis because the federal Food and Drug 43
Administration has not approved its use. It also can be 44
difficult for a financial institution to both comply with the 45
federal Bank Secrecy Act and provide banking services to a 46
cannabis-related business authorized to operate under state law; 47
now therefore be it 48

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General 49
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge 50
the United States Congress, the Attorney General of the United 51

States, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to 52
reclassify marijuana, or cannabis, in an effort to ease both the 53
regulatory burdens associated with research on its potential 54
medical benefits and the burdens faced by registered patients 55
and cannabis-related businesses; and be it further 56

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Ohio Senate transmit duly 57
authenticated copies of this resolution to the United States 58
Congress, the Attorney General of the United States, the United 59
States Drug Enforcement Administration, and the news media of 60
Ohio. 61