



RESOLUTION ON THE DANGERS OF MARIJUANA

Submitted by: Gerald Harris, Messenger from Ephesus Baptist Church, Villa Rica, GA

WHEREAS, the drug problem is a complex and intricately interrelated phenomenon in our society, now including a widespread misuse of valuable prescription products, a broad spectrum of unscientific self-medication, deeply entrenched customs of drinking alcohol beverages, and an alarmingly developing culture involving marijuana and a variety of illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, the pervasive drug orientation of our culture is resulting in widespread social disruption and destruction of life by causing a variety of diseases, accidents and other drug addiction, and is a factor in other serious social problems such as crime, family disruption, workplace issues, and automobile accidents; and

WHEREAS, basic factors now recognized as perpetuating the drug approach to life are social pressure for using, the fascination of drug use created by the entertainment industry, and widespread ignorance of accurate information pertinent to usage of these drugs; and

WHEREAS, contemporary efforts of government, church, civic groups, and other independent agencies are failing to cope effectively with the drug orientation of our culture; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, 23 states and Washington, D.C. currently have laws legalizing marijuana in some form. This trend reflects a growing national tolerance for the use of marijuana for both recreational and medicinal purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Georgia legalized medical marijuana for eight specified medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the State Commission on Medical Cannabis is now considering a recommendation that legislation be introduced in 2016 that would authorize the State of Georgia to cultivate, produce and sell marijuana and its extracts; and

WHEREAS, federal seed laws and federal fertilizer laws add complexity and perhaps liability to those involved in cultivation; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the Georgia State Senate for the legalization and regulation of recreational marijuana; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is defined as having a high potential for abuse; and no clinical trials have proven efficacy of marijuana as medicine, nor recommended any dosing requirements; and several major medical organizations including the American Medical Association, National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society have rejected smoked marijuana as medicine; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is a gateway drug leading to addiction and other drug abuse; and marijuana is also a gateway to health problems, introducing multiple toxic chemicals into the user's body, many of which we do not know the effects on the human body; and marijuana use is associated with higher risk for cancer, psychosis, strokes, respiratory damage and heart attacks; and marijuana is also a gateway to crime, because the relationship between illegal drug use (including marijuana) and crime is undeniable;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the members of the Georgia Legislature to oppose any legislation that would authorize the cultivation of marijuana in the State of Georgia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the members of the Georgia Legislature to oppose any legislation that would legalize recreational marijuana in the State of Georgia; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call for all Georgia Baptists and others of like-mind and purpose to voice their protest of further legalization of illegal drugs, including marijuana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pledge our cooperation with others to neutralize social pressures and minimize glamorization of drug usage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that preventive education in the homes, churches, and the schools be strongly encouraged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GBC Public Affairs Committee be encouraged to work diligently with appropriate agencies of the state convention to publicize this position and to encourage cooperation with others seeking these same objectives; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Georgia's Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of Georgia.