



3-8-18

## Institutional Position in Opposition to Legalization of Marijuana for Non-Medical Purposes in Illinois

WHEREAS, marijuana possession and use is currently illegal in the United States under federal law, but some states have permitted use of marijuana for non-medical (“recreational”) purposes; and

WHEREAS, based on evidence from other states, marijuana use permitted for recreational purposes poses risks of adverse effects on health of infants, children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use during pregnancy is associated with fetal growth restriction, low birthweight, and greater need for newborn intensive care for infants; and

WHEREAS, long-term follow-up studies suggest that children exposed to marijuana in the womb are more likely to have problems with verbal reasoning, comprehension, and short-term memory; and

WHEREAS, long-term use of marijuana starting in adolescence is associated with cognitive deficits that impair learning and work efforts and may not resolve by adulthood, even when marijuana use is ceased; and

WHEREAS, lifting the federal restriction on research regarding marijuana would be beneficial to allow for more comprehensive assessments of the health effects of marijuana for children and adolescents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago does not support policy and program initiatives to legalize the use of marijuana for non-medical purposes by adults because of both the short-term and long-term risks for children and adolescents, in terms of their health and future intellectual potential; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago supports policy and program initiatives to provide public health message campaigns to parents, pregnant women and to youth about the health risks of marijuana use for the developing brains of infants, children and adolescents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Lurie Children’s supports policy and program initiatives to lift federal restrictions on research regarding marijuana, so that the health effects of marijuana for children and adolescents can be assessed comprehensively.