Resolution #8SA – 2018 Annual Leadership Forum

TITLE: The AAP Setting the Standards for Marijuana Regulations

SPONSORED BY: Alaska Chapter

DATE: November 15, 2017

DISPOSITION: ADOPTED

Whereas, there is an undeniable trend of state-by-state marijuana legalization in the United States; and

Whereas, although marijuana remains illegal by federal law, 26 states currently allow medical marijuana and 6 states have legalized broad recreational marijuana use; and

Whereas, research does show that marijuana exposure can be a danger to developing brains into young adulthood and this is an issue that should involve pediatricians; and

Whereas, there is some haphazardness to finding the best practice by (admittedly very helpful) collaboration with states who are more mature in the legalization process, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Academy develop a centralized resource outlining recommendations for state regulations on marijuana, if legalized for either medical or recreational use, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Academy function as a clearinghouse on much-needed ongoing research on marijuana’s impact on children and update this centralized resource accordingly.

FISCAL NOTE: Updated 3/14 – Costs to develop and publish a toolkit could vary anywhere from $20,000 to $200,000 or more depending on the exact methodology of the sponsoring committee, the development of the content, the production and format of the toolkit, and the dissemination strategy.

REFER TO: 2018 Annual Leadership Forum

LEAD AUTHOR: Lily J. Lou, MD, FAAP
Email: lily.lou@providence.org (AK)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Background Information from the Committee on Substance Use and Prevention
The Committee on Substance Use and Prevention is not formally addressing this resolution. The committee published a policy statement and technical report on marijuana in 2015. Relevant marijuana resources are housed at www.aap.org/marijuana including a webinar recording and chart of state laws.

Background Information from Advocacy
Currently, 8 states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington) and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana. In addition, 29 states the District of Columbia have legalized “medical marijuana”.

1. The AAP policy statement The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update states:
   “Although the AAP does not condone state laws that allow the sale of marijuana products, in states where recreational marijuana is currently legal, pediatricians should advocate that states regulate the product as closely as possible to tobacco and alcohol, with a minimum age of 21 years for purchase. Revenue from this regulation should be used to support research on the health risks and benefits of marijuana. These regulations should include strict penalties for those who sell marijuana or marijuana products to those younger than 21 years, education and diversion programs for people younger than 21 years who possess marijuana, point-of-sale restrictions, and other marketing restrictions.

2. In states where marijuana is sold legally, either for medical or recreational purposes, regulations should be enacted to ensure that marijuana in all forms is distributed in childproof packaging, to prevent accidental ingestion.”

The State Advocacy team works closely with AAP chapters in states with “medical” and recreational marijuana laws to establish regulations that protect children from marijuana. These policies include edible marijuana product restrictions, childproof packaging requirements, advertising and marketing restrictions, taxation and use of tax funds for marijuana education programs, and restrictions on the locations where marijuana can be used. Related AAP state advocacy resources are available to support related chapter engagement.