

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

## Resolution 2024-01

### Florida Sheriffs Association Resolution Opposing the Legalization of the Use, Possession, Cultivation, Delivery and Sale of Recreational Marijuana.

**WHEREAS**, since 2012, several states have legalized the cultivation, commercial sale, and recreational use of marijuana; and

**WHEREAS**, the legalization and commercialization of marijuana have spurred the growth of a profit-driven marijuana industry that has pursued its profits ahead of public health; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2012 and 2022, the number of past-year marijuana users nearly doubled from 31.5 million to 61.9 million; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2020 and 2022, the number of Americans with cannabis use disorder increased from 14.2 million to 19.0 million, based on the DSM-V criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, more than 30% of past-year marijuana users had a cannabis use disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, there were more past-year daily or almost daily users of marijuana than alcohol, with 15.1 million and 11.7 million, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, following legalization in California and Colorado, emergency room visits and admissions related to marijuana abuse is up 89% in California and marijuana-related hospitalizations in Colorado increased 148%; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Sheriffs believe the effort to legalize recreational marijuana is contrary to the interests of the public health, safety, and welfare, and desires to preserve the rights of citizens to live and work in a community where drug use is not normalized and citizens are not subjected to the adverse effects of drug misuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the average potency of marijuana increased from 3.75% THC in 1995 to 15.80% in 2018. The use of high-potency marijuana is associated with the development of anxiety, depression, psychosis, and schizophrenia, in addition to cannabis use disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, our roadways must remain safe for our citizens to use, the legalization of marijuana runs contrary to the goal of keeping our roadways safe for our citizens. In 2020, 24.3% of drivers involved in traffic fatalities tested positive for marijuana, up from 14.8% in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, advocates of marijuana legalization routinely overestimate the revenue that will be collected and fail to account for the limited marijuana tax revenue collected is offset by even greater costs to taxpayers, ranging from additional healthcare costs to more students dropping out of high school; and

**WHEREAS**, in Colorado, every \$1 in tax revenue from the sale of marijuana was associated with \$4.50 in costs, ranging from increases in healthcare utilization to lost productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, all states that have legalized marijuana have failed to curtail the illicit market and drug cartels continue to exploit these black-market sales because they do not want to operate within a regulatory system; and

**WHEREAS**, states that have legalized marijuana have had a profound impact on rates of youth use, coinciding with decreases in risk perception; and increases in illicit behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2022 analysis of a longitudinal cohort study of 21,863 individuals found that youth in states with legal recreational marijuana were more likely to use marijuana than youth in non-legal states; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study found that recreational marijuana legalization was associated with a 25% increase in adolescent marijuana use disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, marijuana legalization advocates have argued that legalization will reduce overall crime, but in “legal” states, marijuana crime rates have risen at a faster rate than other states across the country; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Florida Sheriffs Association that:

- (1) THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE LEGALIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA.**
- (2) THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE.**

**THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JULY 2024.**



A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Bill Leeper".

---

Sheriff Bill Leeper  
Nassau County  
FSA President