

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2015-07:

**OPPOSING BALLOT MEASURE 2, AN ACT TO TAX AND REGULATE
THE PRODUCTION, SALE, AND USE OF MARIJUANA**

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 2, An Act to Tax and Regulate the Production, Sale, and Use of Marijuana, will be on the November 2014 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education is committed to the health, safety, and success of young people in our schools; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education supports policies designed to keep harmful substances, including marijuana, off school campuses and violation of said policies can result in suspension from school and other serious consequences that negatively impact learning and academic success; and

WHEREAS, commercializing marijuana expands second-hand access to marijuana for teens and led to a 26% increase in monthly teen use of marijuana in Colorado;¹ and

WHEREAS, marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence memory, thinking, problem-solving, and other functions related to academic success;² and

WHEREAS, studies have shown marijuana is addictive and that it is three times more likely to lead to dependence among adolescents than adults;³ and

WHEREAS, teen marijuana use has been linked to lower academic performance,⁴ and studies show a significant increase in the high school drop-out rate, as well as attempted suicides, among students who use marijuana;⁵ and

WHEREAS, marijuana use reduces inhibitions and can lead to risky behaviors, distorted perception, and impaired coordination that negatively impact the ability to make sound decisions and safely operate a vehicle;⁶ and

WHEREAS, marijuana is increasingly more potent and harmful than in the past (the average THC content in marijuana rose from 4% in 1983 to more than 10% in 2008);⁷

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education opposes the passage of Ballot Measure 2, an Act to Tax and Regulate the Production, Sale, and Use of Marijuana, in the November 2014 election.

PASSED AND APPROVED:

Heidi Haas, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:

Sharon Tuttle,
Board of Education Executive Assistant



REFERENCES AND SOURCES:

1. Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA), Vol. 2 (August 2014). <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/August%202014%20Legalization%20of%20MJ%20in%20Colorado%20the%20Impact.pdf>. The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado.
2. Crean RD, Crane NA, Mason BJ. An evidence based review of acute and long-term effects of cannabis use on executive cognitive functions. *Journal of Addiction Medicine* 2011;5:1-8.
3. Gfroerer, JC, EU, LT., & Penne, MA (2002). Initiation of Marijuana Use: Trends, Patterns, and Implications (Analytic Series: A-17, DHHS Publication No. SMA 02-3711). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies.
4. Meier, MH et.al (2012) Persistent Cannabis Users Show Neuropsychological Decline from Childhood to Midlife. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 109(40) e2657-e2664.
5. Silins, Horwood, Patton, Fergusson, Olsson, Huchinson, Spry, Toumbourou, Degenhardt, Swift, Coffey, Tait, Letcher, Copeland, Mattick. Young Adult Sequelae of Adolescent Cannabis Use: An Integrative Analysis. Cannabis Cohorts Research Consortium. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, Vol. 1, Issue 4.
6. Crean RD, Crane NA, Mason BJ. An evidence based review of acute and long-term effects of cannabis use on executive cognitive functions. *Journal of Addiction Medicine* 2011;5:1-8.
7. Mehmedic Z, et al (2010) Potency Trends of Δ^9 -THC and Other Cannabinoids in Confiscated Cannabis Preparations from 1993 to 2008. *Journal of Forensic Science*, 55(5):1209-17.