Is Missouri Going to Pot?

Reefer Madness: Legal or Medical Marijuana!

by John C. Hagan, III, MD

Every time a state legalizes marijuana, an epidemic of chronic pain and intractable glaucoma breaks out in young people at the state’s medical colleges and universities.

Will Missouri become the next state to enact a medical marijuana law or even make ‘Mary Jane’ an honest woman? That is the ‘pipe dream’ of a bizarre tribe of hemp-o-philes known as the “Show-Me Cannabis Regulation” (SMCR). November 7, 2011, MJ’s best ‘buds’ were the ‘toke’ of the town in Jefferson City. The Missouri Secretary of State’s office certified SMCR efforts to gather signatures to place the issue before voters in the 2012 general election. I shall shamelessly call this the “Pot Reefer-endum for ‘Joint’ Custody.”

To ‘hash’ over the details: five percent of those who voted in the last gubernatorial election from six of Missouri’s nine congressional districts have to sign the SMCR petition to place the Pot Reefer-endum on the official ballot. The stoners are loco-weed ambitious in their goals: legalize marijuana for everyone 21 years of age or older; allow physicians and select health care providers to prescribe marijuana for medical reasons to those younger than 21; and provide a “get out of jail free” card to Missouri non-violent pot crime prisoners. Hoping to curry favor in our revenue-challenged state, Missouri could levy a tax up to $100 on each pound of ‘product’.

Unclear, but of much concern to Show-Me tort kings and queens, is who are the deep-pockets that trial lawyers can sue for the tsunami of cannabis-caused illnesses, injuries and deaths that will surely follow medical or legalized pot.

Missouri Medicine is privileged to present “Legalization, Decriminalization and Medicinal Use of Cannabis: A Scientific and Public Health Perspective” on page 90, the definitive national review on the subject by Drs. Svrakic, et al. It deserves an ultra careful reading. Their meticulously documented and referenced treatise clearly shows the dangers of increasing the availability and use of cannabis products. They persuasively argue that marijuana is a powerful unstudied drug, and it should follow the same basic and clinical research regulatory pathways as other medicinal substances. The studies they cite that have been published are alarming and largely ignored by the popular press. Marijuana is from the Mexican word “maraguaquono” meaning “intoxicating plant.” Intoxication is not a good thing, and we have more than enough intoxicating agents as things are.

Physicians should especially be interested in medical marijuana laws as they put us clearly at legal risk.
In closing, a word of thanks and appreciation to all participants in the ongoing effort to publicize the need to get our children vaccinated. The message enunciated last issue by Drs. Scalzo, Haller, and Pettett has been extensively reported in the media and posted on MedHelp.org. It was featured in the MedHelp e-newsletter which goes to 350,000 individuals. It is a timeless and vital message and one physicians must incorporate into their everyday parent counseling.

And don’t forget: Be a proactive “weed killer!”

References

“I experimented with marijuana a time or two, and I didn’t like it, and I didn’t inhale, and I never tried again.”
Former President William Jefferson Clinton

“When I was a kid I inhaled frequently. That was the point.”
Current President Barack Hussein Obama

“When I’m stoned, I always want to put, like, 500 mice in a backpack and turn them loose in my high school. I would be like god to them mice.”
“Blitzed” at Stonerforums.com