

## THE UTAH CANNABIS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Position Statement

January 2018

### A DECLARATION OF FOUR PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE UTAH'S MARIJUANA DISCUSSION

**Protect Families.** The abuse of marijuana harms youth, adults, families, and communities. We support laws that send clear messages to youth and adults - no smoking, vaporizing, or eating marijuana. Research shows marijuana can damage the teen brain, cause addiction, affect memory, decrease motivation, increase onset of mental illness and impair motor skills. Research also shows fewer youth believe marijuana use is harmful and marijuana use among youth is steadily rising. When considering the cultivation, production, distribution and medical use of cannabis, lawmakers should adopt drug policies that promote a healthy community.

**Strong Economy.** Utah is best served by an economic philosophy that maximizes free market opportunity with minimal regulation to prevent fraud and abuse. Utah's strong economy relies on a healthy workforce free from impairment and addiction. We champion drug policies that establish clear standards and promote a healthy workforce. Utah's healthy workforce attracts new business and supports our competitive advantage.

**Medicinal Value.** We acknowledge research showing that specific patients may achieve medical benefits from components in the cannabis plant. We support continued research aimed at providing patients access to cannabis-based medications only under the following conditions: FDA approved, pharmacy dispensed, non-smoked medications. We support unbiased, independent medical professionals, scientists, and researchers determining what medical products are safe for use in our society and allow them to cultivate and process cannabis for academic or medical purposes. We do not support the recreational use of marijuana in any form.

**Law Enforcement.** We respect the rule of law prohibiting the use of marijuana. We support Utah's right to enforce Federal, state, and local laws that protect our community. We encourage the criminal justice system to emphasize treatment over incarceration for marijuana offenders. We support policies that do not promote lifelong stigma due to arrest.