



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## **Resolutions Committee Recommendation**

Resolution #: ANC-14-039

Title: In Opposition to the Legalization of Marijuana and In Favor of a Positive, Public-Health, Youth Supportive Approach to Marijuana Prevention and Policy

### Comments:

NCAI has long been committed to a drug free Indian country. NCAI is also aware that there are some tribes who are considering the legalization of medical marijuana, and some tribes are concerned about the incarceration rates for marijuana possession in the absence of treatment programs.

The Resolutions Committee recommends that the resolution be considered in committee and that the issue be deferred to the annual meeting to allow for consideration by a larger group of tribal leaders.



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## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ANC-14-039

### **TITLE: In Opposition to the Legalization of Marijuana and In Favor of a Positive, Public-Health, Youth Supportive Approach to Marijuana Prevention and Policy**

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**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, today's marijuana is 4-10 times more potent than marijuana of previous decades and is thus a threat to the health and safety of all Tribes, especially our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribes continue to show higher rates of marijuana and other drug use than other race/ethnicities in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, marijuana has been proven to be associated with a reduction in IQ, mental illness, poor learning outcomes, drugged driving, lung damage, addiction and emergency room mentions related to acute panic attacks and psychotic episodes, and treatment entry; and

**WHEREAS**, a massive marijuana lobby – advertising and promoting abuse – has emerged in light of the legalization of the drug in Colorado and Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, voters in California, Oregon, and Alaska may be voting on ballot measures to legalize marijuana in 2014; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby oppose the legalization of marijuana at all levels of governments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI will work at all levels to oppose the legalization of any drug at all levels of government and in schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports parents in their efforts to keep kids drug-free and live prosperous lives; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NCAI calls on all Tribes to work toward fostering safe and healthy environments free of drugs; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI partners with Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) in supporting drug prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery efforts that focus on reducing marijuana use, especially among youth.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2014 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, June 8-11, 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska, with a quorum present.

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President

**ATTEST:**

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Recording Secretary

ne 8-11, 2014 Mid-Year Session in Anchorage, AK.