



WHEREAS, during The AMVETS, Department of Indiana Spring Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana, March 5-6, 2017 a motion was made and properly seconded and unanimously approved by the Indiana AMVETS Department Executive Committee to urge the Drug Enforcement Agency to license and allow more private growth and research of cannabis, and Congress to move cannabis from the federal Drug Schedule I classification and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration has begun to recognize medical cannabis use by patients in several other states and Washington, D.C. where cannabis is legal and allows physicians to advise and monitor patients who use cannabis in states where it is legal; and Indiana law currently prohibits the use of medical cannabis within the state; and,

WHEREAS, many other states have independently moved toward cannabis reform for medical use and have been successful in delivering a safe treatment alternative to those military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and other chronic physical and mental medical conditions in those states; and we recognize veterans are at risk of opioid addiction and overdose; and that states that allow medical marijuana have had a significant decrease in both addiction rates as well as overdose deaths.

WHEREAS, cannabis reportedly has nowhere near the adverse side effects as compared to other drugs often prescribed to veterans with chronic illnesses or debilitating conditions; and prescribed drugs such as opioids and benzodiazepines are reported to have high potential for adverse side effects and high potential for abuse and addiction, which could potentially lead to hospitalization or death by the patients who consume them; now, therefore, it be,

RESOLVED, AMVETS, Department of Indiana, assembled in Indianapolis, Sunday, June 5th, 2017, urges the Drug Enforcement Agency to license and allow more private growth and research of cannabis, and Congress to remove cannabis from the federal Drug Schedule I classification and reclassify it; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that AMVETS, Department of Indiana urges the Indiana General Assembly to license privately-funded medical marijuana production operations in the State of Indiana to enable safe and efficient cannabis drug development research; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, AMVETS, Department of Indiana urges the Indiana General Assembly to amend the Indiana Code to remove restrictions from marijuana and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum, will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value.