

Raymond Bertino MD  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Susan R. Bailey" <[Susan.Bailey@ama-assn.org](mailto:Susan.Bailey@ama-assn.org)>  
**Subject: Re: Mississippi marijuana initiative**  
**Date:** October 13, 2020 at 4:29:36 PM CDT  
**To:** Raymond Bertino <[rebertino@comcast.net](mailto:rebertino@comcast.net)>

Dear Dr. Bertino:

Thank you for reaching out regarding my comments on behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) regarding the legalization of cannabis for medicinal purposes in Mississippi. AMA policy on the issue of cannabis legalization for medicinal purposes is clear: the AMA believes that scientifically valid and well-controlled clinical trials conducted under federal investigational new drug applications are necessary to assess the safety and effectiveness of all new drugs, including potential cannabis products for medical use. Furthermore, it is our position that cannabis for medicinal use should not be legalized through the state legislative, ballot initiative, or referendum process. (Cannabis Legalization for Medicinal Use, Policy D-95.969)

On the issue of research, the AMA has called for further adequate and well-controlled studies of cannabis and related cannabinoids in patients who have serious conditions for which preclinical, anecdotal, or controlled evidence suggests possible efficacy and the application of such results to the understanding and treatment of disease. We have urged marijuana's status as a federal schedule I controlled substance to be reviewed with the goal of facilitating the conduct of clinical research and development of cannabinoid-based medicines, and alternate delivery methods. However, we have cautioned that this should not be viewed as an endorsement of state-based medical cannabis programs, the legalization of cannabis, or that scientific evidence on the therapeutic use of cannabis meets the current standards for a prescription drug product. (Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research, Policy H-95.952)

We anticipate an updated report from the AMA's Council on Science and Public Health on public health implications of cannabis legalization for consideration at the Special Meeting of the House of Delegates next month and look forward to the work of the AMA's recently-formed Cannabis Task Force, which will evaluate and disseminate relevant scientific evidence to health care providers and the public.

We always appreciate hearing from physicians across the country and would welcome your insights on this important issue moving forward.

Sincerely,

*Susan R. Bailey MD*  
**Susan R. Bailey MD**  
**President, American Medical Associations**