

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAW AS IT PERTAINS TO STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

On November 8, 2016, Amendment 2 was passed by Floridians allowing for the medical use of marijuana by individuals, which may include children. As a result, it is anticipated that the Florida Legislature will be discussing legislation for implementing purposes. When considering legislation, policymakers need to address ways to safeguard the students in our schools.

Frequent marijuana use by teenagers can have negative physical and mental effects. Research shows a reduction in thinking, memory, attention, and learning functions. In states where marijuana sales exist in close proximity to schools, there is documentation showing the ill effects on school-aged children's academic performance, the increase in minors' visits to hospitals, the spike in car accidents involving young people, and the increased potency rates in marijuana products accessed by children.

Based on the research and given that medical marijuana users may be students or employees in the school district, it is prudent for the Superintendent to collaborate with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents for the purposes of discussing and developing added protections and recommendations. It is equally important to amend the State Legislative Platform to ensure the prohibition of (1) medical marijuana dispensaries in close proximity to schools, (2) medical marijuana sales in candy form or other enticing food or drink products, and (3) medical marijuana products on school property without administrative supervision which would allow for the consideration of use by students and employees.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN KARP: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. Request that the Superintendent collaborates with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents for the creation of a task force to develop recommendations and added protections related to the implementation of Amendment 2; and,
2. Amend its 2017 State Legislative Platform to include the prohibition of (1) medical marijuana dispensaries within 2,500 feet of a school, (2) medical marijuana sales in the form of candy or other enticing food or drink products, and (3) medical marijuana products on school property without administrative supervision as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools.